

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Education Committee, March 25, 2011.

Present: Cary Horvath, Felicia Armstrong, Phil Munro, Brian Bonhomme, Sue Miller, Bob Beebe, Sharon Stringer, Tod Porter (Chair), Sarah Lowry (student rep.).

Meeting called to order at 2 pm

1. Tod thanked the committee members for their work throughout the year. A lot has been accomplished this year. GEC committee members are invited to an appreciation luncheon on Wed April 20th from 11:30 to 1 pm in the Presidential Suites. Sharon will send the invitation.
2. GEC committee members approved the motion: change the approval process to give the Academic Senate the final decision on the mapping of a new course into the general-education model.

The GEC also discussed the following items:

- I. Change the name of the Creative and Liberal Arts domain to “Creative Arts and Humanities” or “Humanities and Fine Arts.” The primary argument for changing the name is that it is a more accurate reflection of the content of the category. The definition of “liberal arts” typically includes math and the sciences while “humanities” connotes a focus on culture and human values. Also, the two alternatives mentioned are used by other Ohio universities.

Decision/Approved: The GEC committee agreed on Creative Arts and Humanities.

- II. Change the name of the sub-domain sustainability to environmental sustainability. Sustainability could potentially be interpreted in a number of different ways, my impression of the discussion within the committee was that our intent was to have the category focus on environmental sustainability and I think the title should reflect that.

Decision/Approved: The GEC committee agreed on use of Environmental Sustainability

- III. Consider changing the title of Responsible Citizenship or add a civics category. The Political Science department feels very strongly that it is absurd to have a category with the title of responsible citizenship which does not include a category focused on government.
Decision: Postpone this item until next meeting. The GEC agreed to think about the appropriate name and discuss other issue relevant to this domain at the next meeting.

- IV. Decide what our response will be to the requests by some colleges to reduce the total number of required knowledge domain courses below 10. Four of five colleges so far have expressed strong interest in reducing the number of semester hours. To provide context for discussion, Tod presented several possible options to the committee:
- A. Stay with 43 s.h. but expect amendments
 - B. Adopt 40 s.h. (compromise that is sensitive to constituencies)
 - C. Adopt 37 s.h. (if we do this we may choose to review courses tightly and propose clear list of criteria, e.g. meets learning outcomes, broad, mix of students, similar courses included in general education at other universities)

Extensive discussion about this issue followed.

Decision Postponed: The GEC committee decided to think about the points raised during discussion and come to next meeting on Thursday March 31st to make a decision before Senate meeting on April 6th.

Meeting ended at 3:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully prepared by Sharon Stringer