

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Education Committee March 31, 2011

Present: Cary Horvath, Nicole Mullins, Bob Beebe, Phil Munro, Brian Bonhomme, Sarah Lowry (student rep.), Sharon Stringer, Sue Miller, Tod Porter (chair), Mike Crist, Sungsoo Kim, Kevin Ball, and Peter Reday.

Meeting called to order at 3 p.m.

Decision / Approved: The GEC agreed to change the name of a knowledge domain from “Creative Arts and Humanities” to “Arts and Humanities.”

Discussion: The GEC discussed the feedback from the various academic college forums on the number of required general education hours.

Sue Miller suggested that if the number of general education hours is reduced to 37, the GEC should seriously consider the need for an orientation seminar for incoming students. Tod questioned whether now was the best time to introduce a new proposal considering all of the other revisions and discussions.

Sarah Lowry expressed concern that campus discussion of the general education revisions has focused only on the number of hours rather than the knowledge domains or the learning outcomes. Nicole Mullins noted that the campus seems relatively satisfied with and in favor of the knowledge domains and the learning outcomes.

Decision / Revision: The GEC revised the criteria for approval of courses to be included in a knowledge domain:

1. In criteria #1, the term “learning objectives” was replaced with “learning outcomes.”
2. Criteria #2 was revised to read: “Provide students with an introduction to an academic discipline or a primary subdivision of that discipline.”
3. The term “significant numbers” was changed to “significant number” in criteria #3.

The revised language on the criteria was accepted by the GEC. The revised language will be included in the revised proposal to the Academic Senate.

Discussion: Tod provided a percentage breakdown of the enrollments in the existing knowledge domains. The GEC discussed changing the number of hours based upon the feedback received from the various academic college forums. The GEC agreed that 40 hours represents a reasonable compromise between arguments for greater and lesser requirements. The requirement of 40 hours also reaffirms a commitment to liberal arts education and the breadth and depth of general education coursework.

Decision / Approval: The GEC agreed to amend the number of required general education hours to 40 (two committee members opposed). It was agreed that students would be allowed to take the “floater” course (the remaining course not required in a particular knowledge domain) in any knowledge domain.

Discussion: The GEC discussed possible revised titles for the “Responsible Citizenship” knowledge domain.

Decision / Approval:

After extensive discussion the committee agreed to title the category Social and Personal Awareness.

Minutes respectfully prepared by Kevin Ball.