

Youngstown State University
GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Meeting: May 10, 2012, 12:00 – 2:00 pm, Tod Hall

Present: Porter (chair), Bonhomme, Lowry, Felix, Sturru, Ball, O'Mansky, Tomhave, Garr, Beebe, Curnalia, Stringer, Shah-Rowlands, Palardy

The committee had approved the minutes from the previous meeting via e-mail, there were no additional comments.

The committee then discussed the implementation of the upper-division course policy approved by the Academic Senate at its May meeting. The policy states:

“One purpose of the General Education Requirements is to ensure that students are exposed to a diverse range of disciplines. Therefore, in general, upper-division courses will not count towards the general education requirements. However, the committee is cognizant that exceptions may need to be made in some cases. For example due to accreditation requirements and situations in which the number of hours required for a program become excessive or other extraordinary circumstances.”

The committee then discussed whether the upper-division courses currently in the General Education model should remain in the model. The committee reached the following conclusions:

1. The committee agreed that the upper-division music courses discussed at the February 14th meeting (MUHL 3771-3774) would be included in the model based on the discussion at that meeting.
2. The committee then discussed the following courses, all of which are required by accredited programs or, in the case of the BSMD program, a program with an exceptionally high number of required classes:

GERO 3703, *Aging and Society*
GERO 3745, *Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care*
PSYC 3755, *Child Development*
PSYC 3758, *Lifespan Development*

It was initially suggested that all four courses be included in the general education model on the grounds that they are required by programs which include a high number of required classes.

However, it was noted that the music courses were retained in the model on the grounds that removing the courses would increase the total number of hours required for certain music degrees. To be consistent it should be demonstrated that removing these courses from the model would have some adverse impact on students. In theory, it is possible that removing the course from the general education model would have no impact because the general education requirements could be met with other required courses in the program. It was also noted that the process for retaining the courses in the model would set a precedent for future consideration of upper-division courses.

The committee then had an extended discussion on what rule should be used to determine if the courses would be retained. One initial suggestion was that the course should only be retained if removing it would increase the total number of hours required by the program beyond 124 or 130 hours. However, it was noted that if dropping a course from the general education model reduced

the number of elective hours in a program that had few electives to start with students' flexibility in courses selection would be reduced. Reducing the number of electives could also force students who changed majors to take additional hours.

The committee ultimately agreed that a course would be retained in the model if removing from the model would reduce the number of elective hours in a program or push the number of required hours above 124. Tod Porter was authorized to determine which courses satisfied the criteria; documentation that the course did or did not satisfy the criteria would be sent to the committee.

3. The committee agreed that the following upper-division courses, which are not required in an accredited major, would be removed from the General Education model:

PSYC 3700, *Social Psychology*

PSYC 3707, *Psychology of Intimate Relationships*

PHIL 3711, *General Ethics*

PHIL 3727, *Environmental Ethics*

PHIL 3760, *Ethics of War and Peace*

However, given that the courses were part of the model when students had been advised for the 2012 fall semester and that some departments had indicated an interest in reclassifying some of the courses as lower division, the committee agreed that there would be a one year grace period in which the courses would remain in the model. If the department changes the numbering during the 2012-13 academic year the course will automatically be put back in the model, if the level is not changed the course will be dropped from the model starting the fall of 2013.

Submitted by Tod Porter