

General Education Committee Meeting Minutes 10/15/2013

Present: Joseph Palardy (Coordinator); Sally A Lewis (Ed); Zara Rowlands (HHS); Alan E Tomhave (SPA); Gregg Sturris (NS); Julie I Felix (Advisors); Hillary L Fuhrman (Assessment); Ewelina Boczkowska (CAAC); Julie Boron (CLASS) Brad Shellito (SS);

Meeting began at 10:05 am

- I. Credit for lower level courses when a higher level version of the class has already been taken.
 - a. Discussion centered on not allowing students to take courses with substantial overlap.
 - b. Julie Felix mentioned that the current language limiting the ability of students to take a 1500 level Economics class and a 2600 level Economics class both for gen ed credit also eliminated the possibility that a student taking the lower level class first would get credit for the upper level class.
 - c. Julie Boron mentioned that it might be best to look at courses that have substantial overlap.
 - d. The committee agreed that "It is in the spirit of general education that when students take multiple classes with substantial overlap in content that only one of those courses can be used to fulfill a general education requirement."
 - e. The committee also agreed that it would be necessary to identify those sets of classes that have substantial overlap.
- II. ENST 1500 is the lab required for SPA credit? If being used as a SPA, can the lab be used to fulfill the NS lab requirement?
 - a. The committee agreed that the lab need not be taken to fulfill the SPA requirement
 - b. Julie Felix argued that the current Gen. Ed. language says that the NS course must have the lab attached to fulfill the NS+lab requirement. Therefore, the current language should eliminate the possibility of using the ENST 1550 lab for the NS lab requirement if the course is being used as a SPA.
 - c. The committee agreed with that argument, and adds the following qualifications for ENST 1500
 - i. The lab is not required for SPA credit.
 - ii. If the course is being used for SPA credit, the lab cannot count toward the NS lab requirement.
- III. HLC and Assessment
 - a. The committee read through YSU's mission and the current HLC criteria and made note of potential problems
 - i. Zara Rowlands and Julie Boron noted that we tend not to require higher-level thinking skills in entry-level courses
 - ii. Palardy noted that students can avoid courses on ethics and global perspectives in the current general education model. Both ethics and global perspectives are mentioned in YSU's mission statement.

- iii. To future investigate potential problems, a gen. ed. self-study subcommittee was formed.
 - 1. Members: Hillary Fuhrman, Zara Rowlands, Allen Tomhave, Ewelina Boczkowska, Joe Palardy, and Guy Shebatt (pending acceptance.)
 - b. Hillary Fuhrman talked about adapting the ROAD project to fulfill our VSA (Voluntary System of Accountability) by expanding the ROAD rubric to include all of the AAC&U Critical Thinking Rubric.
 - i. Given that the ROAD rubric was largely based on the AAC&U Writing and Critical thinking rubrics initially, the committee did not feel that this change would be problematic.
 - ii. However, the committee wanted a group to work on adjusting the language of the additional items to better meet the needs of YSU.
 - iii. The group that will work on the language will most likely consist of those that originally developed the ROAD rubric.
 - c. Assessment of Math and Communications
 - i. Palardy indicated that committees will be formed in the spring to identify potential assessments for Gen. Ed.'s Communications and Mathematics learning outcomes.
- IV. A subcommittee on the process for upper-division course waivers due to potential accreditation problems was also formed.
 - a. Members: Greg Sturrrus, Zara Rowlands, Joe Palardy, Peter Reday (pending acceptance), and Scott Irelan (pending acceptance.)