

Minutes of the General Education Committee

November 9, 2010

Members present: Kevin Ball, Bob Beebe, Brionna Benson, Brian Bonhomme, Mike Crist, Rebecca Curnalia, Sarah Lowry, Matt O'Mansky, Sue Miller, Nicole Mullins, Phil Munro, Tod Porter, and Sharon Stringer.

- The chair called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.
- The minutes for November 2, 2010, were approved.
- After discussion, the committee approved CJFS 5814: Forensic Science and the Criminal Justice System as a capstone course.
- Tod suggested the need for additional language detailing which Learning Outcomes—or combination of Learning Outcomes—must be met for inclusion in a domain. Tod will draft this language for the committee to consider at the next meeting.
- Sharon asked if the committee is charged with determining if individual courses fit in a designated domain. Tod suggested a “grandfathering” system to expedite the process so that the committee doesn’t have to (re)consider every single YSU course.
- The committee approved the wording for the Creative and Liberal Arts and Social Sciences domains.
- The committee discussed the most appropriate name of the current Personal and Social Responsibility and Wellbeing domain.
 - Nicole stated that the Exercise Science and Physical Education department considered the current domain name more appropriate than past names.
 - A range of terms (“action,” “engagement,” “citizenship,” and “civic engagement”) were discussed for inclusion in the domain title.
 - After discussion of a number of possible alternative names, it was agreed to revisit the topic at the next meeting.
- Tod raised a concern with the wording of “but are not limited to” in the Goals language of the Personal and Social Responsibility and Wellbeing domain. Tod emphasized the need for narrowly defined goals to prevent slippage into “special topics” sections.
- The committee discussed four possible categories of the Personal and Social Responsibility and Wellbeing domain: Wellness, Diversity, Sustainability, and International Perspectives.
 - Would a Freshman Experience course address any of the topics in these categories? The committee decided that we needed to have a better idea of what we will expect from a Freshman Experience course before we can make that determination.
 - Sharon suggested the possibility of moving the wellness category to the Social Sciences domain.
 - It was posed that a definition of “wellness” might address “action,” as in “What actions does an individual take?”

- Nicole suggested that wellness must be a “responsibility-driven” category.
- Brian, Sarah, and Tod volunteered to meet with the sustainability initiative members to discuss defining the “sustainability” category and the courses that might fit within it.
- The committee discussed expanding the definition of “diversity” beyond race, gender, and sexual orientation.
 - Tod mentioned that state institutions vary in their diversity requirements.
 - Whereas Cleveland State University, for instance, has very rigorous Gen Ed diversity requirements, other institutions’ requirements are more lenient.
- It was suggested that courses could be listed under two different domains.
 - Students would not be allowed to “double dip.”
 - A cross-listed course could only be used to satisfy one Gen Ed requirement.
- Tod stated that the committee needs clear definitions of “wellness,” “diversity,” and “sustainability” for the next meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.