

General Education Committee Meeting  
April 23, 2014

Present: Palardy (coordinator); R. Goldberg, B. Shellito, A. Tomhave, P. Munro, H. Fuhrman, P. Reday, E. Boczkowska, G. Shebat

Meeting was called to order at 11:00

Minutes from previous meeting were approved

I. Old business – Palardy updated the committee on recent submissions

A. CMST 2650 – Rhetoric of Film for A&H

- the English department is not pleased because the course overlaps with their own offerings; they believe it should not have made it out of committee and have filed a formal protest
- Communications does not believe there is a problem
- Palardy suggests that if we did accept the course, we would need to add restrictions

B. ENGL 2615 – Science and Fantasy in Literature for A&H

- the committee had proposed adding restrictions on the number of literature classes a student could use for GE credit
- Dr. Gergits has asked that these restrictions be applied universally across campus

C. HAHS 1510 – Investigations into Social Class in America as SPA-Wellness

- HHS is not pleased with our response to the submission and will appeal to the academic senate for a hearing.
- Palardy will discuss the procedure with Dr. Cooper

D. STEM 1530/ART 1530 Cross-listed – A&H

- course was rejected because it did not fit A&H or Science
- Palardy expects reaction from Deans; notes that we have to either change GE model or change the class before it can be accepted
- Phil Munro expressed concern over the comment in the minutes: “Fear that it will allow STEM majors to get Gen. ed. credit without leaving their own college.” He noted that this is true for all of the colleges.
- Palardy and Hillary Fuhrman emphasized that the course was rejected because it included more “doing” than a “theory”

II. New Business

A. Assessment of oral communications and quantitative literacy

- We are ahead of the game in assessing writing but behind with regard to oral comm. and quantitative lit.
- the HLC provides a variety of types of assessment and the committee discussed the benefits and challenges

- could have a ROAD program for oral comm. that would include uploading oral presentations
- server space is probably not an issue, but anonymity of the student would be compromised
- Pete Reday noted that the assessment artifacts should be recorded in front of an audience
- it was also noted that musical performance and theatrical readings could possibly be used as artifacts of oral communication
- some departments already have oral comm. rubrics in place; Fuhrman noted that it may be possible to assess lower-division oral comm. at the departmental level and then use a ROAD or similar program to assess capstones or other upper-division oral comm.
- another possibility would be to ask departments to assess their capstones every three years
- A quantitative rubric was discussed
  - it may be challenge to find a rubric that could fit different artifacts
- No definite procedure for either assessment was proposed, but Palardy noted that we could try a pilot program in the fall
- We need to have something in place before the HLC visit in 2016-17.
- We will revisit the topic in August or September

#### B. May 13<sup>th</sup> – Scoring day

- In order to help include more critical thinking into the ROAD writing project
  - faculty can volunteer to take part in a “scoring day” to assess 20-40 writing samples from both lower- and upper-division courses
  - scorers will be paid \$200
  - consider participating and share with colleagues

#### C. Moratorium on non-OTM-approvable Proposal

- our current gen. ed. model has 29 credit hours; the OTM is 36 hours
  - it is important for students to know which course are OTM approved when they choose gen. ed. classed
- the future of our gen. ed. is also dependent upon what we do with Associate Degrees
- current proposal will not remove any non-OTM classes
  - its purpose is to slow down expansion of gen. ed. courses so that we do not add new courses that are not OTM approved
- the committee agreed that YSU needs more representation on state-wide committees to ensure that our gen. ed. classes are approved
- the committee decided to hold off on voting on the proposal