

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

November 17, 2010

Present: Bernie Quetchenbach Melinda Tilton
Neil Suits Mike Havens
Matt Redinger Tom Regele
Mark Fenderson Elizabeth Fullon
Brent Roberts Chase Slade (student)
Tasneem Khaleel (ex-officio)

Absent: Michael Scarlett Nik Wong (student)
Kurt Toenjes – *excused* Neil Jussila – *excused*

Presiding: Matt Redinger, Chairperson

Matt Redinger called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. in the Missouri room.

The minutes of October 20 were accepted as presented.

I. ITEMS – FIRST READING

Item 28.a Gen Ed course: HON 121 Perspectives and Understanding. Submit for General Education category V.B. Humanities.

Item 29 Gen Ed course: HON 181 The Ancient and Medieval Worlds. Remove from General Education category V.B. Humanities.

Item 29.a Gen Ed course: HON 182 The Renaissance and Modern Worlds. Remove from General Education category V.B. Humanities.

HON 121 was approved as a new course by the UCC on November 10.

It was noted that, basically, HON 121 replaces HON 181 & 182. HON 181 & 182 have history corequisites, and those history courses are no longer being taught due to staffing issues. Based on the Humanities category description in the catalog and the category outcomes, HON 121 does seem to fit in Gen Ed.

- Motion by Melinda Tilton, seconded by Tom Regele to **approve Items 29 and 29.a on first reading.**

- Motion carried.

- Motion by Tom Regele, seconded by Brent Roberts to **waive second reading of Items 29 and 29.a.**

- Motion carried.

- Motion by Melinda Tilton, seconded by Mark Fenderson, to **approve Item 28.a on first reading.**

It was noted that the title of HON 121 is purposefully vague so the content of the course can be adjusted based on what department it is taught from.

The question was raised, only for discussion, about having honors courses in Gen Ed. Honors courses have restricted enrollments, but Gen Ed courses are to be open to anyone. It was noted that Honors Program students are required to take 21 credits of honors designated courses. It was cited that the honors courses in Communication are crosslisted, so half of the students in the class are honors and half are not. The instructor ends up teaching two courses. It was noted that the new HON 121 could be offered as an English class with a separate section for honors students. The question of honors courses in Gen Ed comes down to the fact that we have a distributed Gen Ed program, rather than a college or department dedicated solely to a Gen Ed core.

The question of the impact of the community college initiative for the COT on Gen Ed and Gen Ed courses was raised. The Board of Regents have made it a mandate that the COT will become more of a community college, and our new Chancellor has also indicated it is a priority. Will we begin offering the full Gen Ed menu on both campuses? Then, questions of who schedules and pays for courses also arise. Will there be faculty lines at the COT to support Gen Ed courses? It was noted that sending a class of students to the east campus for a given Gen Ed course is not really feasible because of the long commute time. Dean Tasneem Khaleel noted that she has no problem offering at least one course from every category per semester at the COT. It was cited that there is a lot of potential for attitudes of “us and them” to develop in this situation. It was further noted that those attitudes currently exist anyway.

- Motion carried.

- **Second reading of Item 28.a was waived by acclamation.**

II. ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Item 21 COMT 110 Interpersonal Communication. Change course description.

It was cited that nothing is changing in this course except the course description. This is a great class, but the enrollments are dropping dramatically. The course is really lost in the Social Sciences category, which has nine different departments involved.

It was suggested that COMT 110 be moved to the Information Literacy category. It was also suggested that the Committee revisit the names of the categories.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Interdisciplinary Courses

It was noted that really, the issue with interdisciplinary courses is the fact that we all survive on FTE. A combined course will “steal” FTE from two other courses. There are also issues with team-taught courses, because often there is no responsibility between the two (or more) faculty members for the course. It was cited that payment for faculty to team-teach is also difficult.

B. Conference

It was suggested that it appears most Gen Ed related conferences are just a rehash of everything we’ve been through. Perhaps we should host one of our own!

It was agreed that the next meeting will not be until January.

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.