

General Education Council

Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2010

Allie Young 31

The General Education Council met at 2:00 p.m. February 26, 2010, in Room 31 Allie Young. Members present: Loretta Lykins, Clarendia Phillips, Barbara Dehner, Yvonne Baldwin, Glen Colburn, Timothy Hare, Elsie Pritchard, Beverly McCormick, Carol Wymer, Charles Patrick, Robert Boram, Cathy Thomas, Dayna Seelig, Cyndi Gibbs, Rebecca Katz. Members absent: Edna Schack.

1. Minutes of the February 10 meeting were approved as presented. (Feb 17 meeting canceled for snow)
2. Registrar, Loretta Lykins addressed the group on exchange courses and several other points. It was her last meeting prior to her retirement. Until a new registrar is named, Kerry Murphy will attend the GEC in that capacity. Ms. Lykins recommends listing the exchange course on the degree audit for the program that requests the exchange course. For example, the Biology exchange course for a Biology Area would appear on the degree audit as:
Math/Science Area Studies
 Biol 105, Biol 171 (exchange)
 Biol 171 (exchange 2010FA C 4)
Ms. Lykins provided a handout showing how this would look in degree audit.
 - **Action: It was agreed by majority vote that a course exchange will follow the student;** should the student change majors or programs, the exchange is still honored. Students may occasionally find themselves needing to take an additional course based on program requirements.
3. In discussion, the question arose of how everyone will know what transition courses have been approved for the 2010 year. Deans and chairs have been notified as approvals have been made by the GEC; however, Yvonne Baldwin will create a chart showing all approvals by the GEC in the appropriate category. This chart can be posted at the website and will be emailed to all departments with instructions to forward to all faculty and advisors, deans, and chairs.
4. **Old Business:**
 - a. The GEC worked to finalize the Timeline. It was agreed during discussion that the assessment process for 2010 needs to be integrated into the timeline; hence approval was delayed until the next meeting.
 - b. Options for handling current vacancies on Council (Dianna Murphy – Faculty Courses Coordinator, Faculty Assessment Coordinator) were discussed. It was agreed that Rebecca Katz would draft a recommendation immediately and submit

it via email for editing and approval. Once approved, it will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate and the Governance Committee.

- c. FYS Issues were discussed. There was further discussion about the GEC's action to reject courses outside established days/times. Since there are sometimes specific reasons for courses in programs such as music being offered at certain times and since this may conflict with the FYS times, it was agreed that Yvonne Baldwin will contact Dean Scott McBride and Chair Kurt Hammond to explain the situation and the expectation that over time, departments and/or programs will alter their schedules so that all students are free to participate during their first semester in a FYS class.
 - **Action: by majority vote, it was agreed that a \$10 First Year Seminar course fee be adopted.** The fee will cover the cost of the MSU Planner, but its primary function will be for group programming such as bringing in the author of the common reading, or a guest speaker, etc. Yvonne Baldwin will complete the necessary request for this fee to be implemented.

5. New Business:

- a. Dayna Seelig spoke to the GEC
 - Regarding the change in policy on use of gen ed courses in major/minor: A paramount concern for her in making this decision was to assure that robust program courses at the 300 level form the bulk of course of study requirements. In her experience, some programs were creating programs of study that required many gen ed courses and only a few program courses. This causes academic integrity issues but also problems in meeting the required 42 hours of upper division credit.
 - The issue of "double dipping" was discussed and it became evident that different people define this differently. In Dr. Seelig's definition, this is using a gen ed course to count twice – once as a program requirement and once as a gen ed, a total of 6 hours for a 3 credit hour course, which has never been allowed. Dr. Phillips raised the example of SOC 101, which is a gen ed course. In her program, majors take this course, but NOT for social/behavioral gen ed credit. This is acceptable.
 - The issue of when and how currently enrolled students will be allowed to switch to the new catalog and 120 credit hours was discussed. It will be possible for first and second year students to generate a "what-if" degree audit that shows how their program would be affected by the change. If it is beneficial they may request change to the new catalog.
 - **Action: it was agreed by majority vote that general education courses taken prior to gen ed redesign will automatically be applied to student's transcripts and degree audits.** During the course approval process the course or courses from older catalogs that fit the new course will be determined. This will reduce the number of course substitutions at least somewhat. This is currently part of the process in curriculum proposals and will be added to the gen ed proposal process.
 - **Action: it was agreed by majority vote that the FYS requirements for students allowed to switch to new catalog and for transfer students will**

remain the same as for MSU 101 at 24 credit hours. This is consistent with original recommendations by FGEAC already approved by Senate.

- b. Rebecca Katz raised a question about textbook ordering for the FYS. In a different committee meeting, the issue came up and it was stated that faculty did not have a method for ordering texts for their section. Once the schedule build for FYS is finalized and submitted to the Registrar's office for Datatel, that should no longer be a problem, but Yvonne Baldwin will follow up with Kerry Murphy in the Registrar's office and Julie Ferguson in the bookstore.
6. It was agreed that the GEC needs two working sessions next week to more clearly articulate assessment processes and expectations, particularly an advising document for all faculty, and to further define a statement on workload credit for teaching gen ed courses.
7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 3, 7:30 a.m. Special called meeting on Friday, March 5. Time TBD at March 3 meeting.