



Committee on General Education

Minutes for March 9, 2006

Building C: 5th Floor Conference room 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Present:

Bonnie Chauncey (co-chair); Dan Milsky; William Sieger; John Parker; Charletta Gutierrez; Janalyn Meehan. Ex-officio (advisory): Roger Gilman; Shelley Bannister; Edmund Hansen.

Absent:

Angeles Eames; Amy Hietapelto; Roger Reinsch (co-chair); Mary Hay Verne; Tom Weaver.

Guests:

Wamucci Njogu; Victor Ortiz; BarBara Scott

Co-chairperson Chauncey called the meeting to order at 11:38 a.m.

I. Presentation of new course proposal, AFAM 200

Dr. Scott described this as a foundational, interdisciplinary course with appeal beyond AFAM minors that is writing intensive, multicultural and meets the general education criteria. The committee voiced two concerns with the proposal:

- 1) Rather than trying to include all of the gen ed criteria in the course description, the proposal should focus on the subset of criteria most relevant to this course.
- 2) The proposal should identify the mechanisms by which the AFAM program will ensure the course has consistent learning objectives across instructors.

Dr.s Scott & Njogu accepted the committee's recommendations and agreed to revise the course proposal. Dr. Parker moved that the course proposal be approved pending the recommended revisions, Dr. Sieger seconded the motion and the committee voted to accept the motion.

During the discussion of this course, two larger, more general issues were identified:

- 1) Dr. Hansen noted that the criteria for general education courses are not clearly defined and Dr. Chauncey recommended the committee work on developing clearer criteria once data from the current assessment becomes available.
- 2) The committee agreed that the issue of general education course consistency across instructors was an important issue to address in the upcoming year.

II. Presentation of new course proposal, LLAS 101

Dr. Ortiz told the committee that NEIU is an ideal educational setting for this highly pertinent & timely course that will assist students in building an understanding that we live in a single society of diverse components with transnational connections. He

also stated that approval of this course as a gen ed will help to enrich & expand the LLAS program. The committee's primary concern with the proposal was that the stated learning/course objectives and grading elements were not well reflected in the sample syllabus provided. The committee made many specific suggestions for how these omissions & inconsistencies could be resolved in the proposal. Of note, Dr.s Chauncey, Gilman & Gutierrez questioned the quantitative aspect of the course and recommended using the term qualitative instead. Dr. Hansen noted that all grading elements need to be represented in the sample syllabus and asked for clarification of learning outcomes #1, 2, 4 & 5 to help highlight the gen ed criteria that are the main focus of the course. Dr. Ortiz agreed to revise and resubmit the proposal with the recommended changes.

III. Approval of minutes from February 23, 2006

The committee thanked Dr. Gutierrez for her thorough and professional job preparing the minutes. Dr.s Meehan & Milsky asked that their correct email addresses (J-Meehan1@neiu.edu & D-Milsky@neiu.edu) be verified to ensure they receive the minutes. Dr. Parker moved to accept the minutes as written, Dr. Sieger seconded and the committee voted to approve.

IV. Gen Ed Assessment Updates

1) Faculty response to memo requesting participation with Academic Profile
On behalf of Dr. Eames, Dr. Hansen reported that of ~50 faculty contacted, only ~12 had responded. The committee noted that greater participation is required to obtain a sufficient sample size.

2) Quantitative Skills Assessment Subcommittee
Dr. Parker reported that he, Dr. Tanya Cofer (math) & Dr. Linda Rueckert (psychology) had met, identified key skill areas to be included in the assessment and had generated some sample questions. Dr. Parker is compiling these sample questions for review by the subcommittee. Pending their approval, the sample test will be brought to this committee.

3) Oral Skills Assessment Subcommittee
Dr. Hansen reported that he, Dr. Susan Colon (CMT), Dr. Parker, & Dr. Nanette Potee (CMT) met and decided that existing videotapes from Dr.s Potee & Laurie Fuller (women's studies) could be supplemented with videotapes from April 21's Student Research & Creative Activities Symposium to form a sample for coding oral skills. The subcommittee will continue to meet to develop an appropriate rubric of overlapping criteria for use in assessing the tapes.

V. Discussion: Testing out of Math-Quantitative Literacy gen ed requirement

Dr. Chauncey discussed the issue with Steve Pajak (enrollment services) who indicated that the relationship between AP/CLEP scores and receiving gen ed credit was unclear. Dr. Chauncey agreed to address the matter with Dr.s Gilman and Eames.

VI. Update on upcoming elections to fill gen ed vacancies

The committee reminded Dr.s Gutierrez & Parker to self-nominate and noted that a nominee for the “at large” committee member had not been identified.

VII. Other

Dr. Milsky informed the committee that he had followed up with Dr. Lesa Davis (anthropology) regarding the status of ANTH 215.

Dr. Meehan moved to adjourn, Dr. Parker seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Parker, CO-SECRETARY

Next meeting scheduled for March 30th, 11³⁰ am – 1³⁰ pm; Building C, 5th floor conference room.