

General Education Committee

Executive Board Room
January 6, 2011
1:00 – 2:00 pm

Present: Bob Drov Dahl, Steve Layman, Doug Downing, Katie Kresser, Cindy Price, Andrew Ryder, Bruce Congdon, Chris Henshaw, Michelle Beauclair, Elaine Scott, Kathleen Braden, Mike Hamilton

Agenda

Approval of December 9 minutes

- **Review of the amendment to WK/WE structure which was approved by “email vote” (11 votes in favor).** The amendment was as follows:

Every student takes 30 Exploratory Curriculum credits in “Ways of Knowing” courses:

MATH ARTS HUM SS SCI SCI

In addition, every student takes five credits of coursework in a small-enrollment seminar with the characteristics we have been considering for the "Ways of Engaging/2nd tier/fill-in-your-own-term" courses, including not counting toward the major. These five credits could be in any discipline.

- **Decision on the relationship between a Way of Engaging course and a student’s major(s)**

Clearly state a recommendation (or a set of options to present faculty) regarding the relationship between a WE course and major requirements. Three options seem possible:

- **A description of a unifying goal statement for General Education**

“People of wisdom” is in our Learning Outcomes document and it seems to carry both secular and theological weight

- **Approval of an executive summary of our committee’s work**

- **Determine a plan for gathering feedback on the proposal**

Discussion of WK/WE structure

30 credits in WK

5 credits in WE (2000 and 3000 level classes)

WE and a Student’s Major

Discussion of the three options:

1. A course meeting a requirement for a major could also count for WE credit (we seemed to rule this out with the amendment).

2. A course meeting a WE requirement could not also count toward a student's major (this would allow a student to take a course in their major subject area, provided they did not use that course to meet any requirements within the major).
 3. A course meeting a WE requirement must have a subject prefix other than the subject prefix(es) of a student's major(s)
- Discussion about students who have not picked their majors when they select a WE course
 - Eventually may have to take two WE courses
 - Disciplines offering WE courses not part of the major (the course still fills the requirement)
 - Staffing implications?
 - Pre reqs on WE courses? Could or could not
 - Is the WE level doable?
 - Most WE courses will be out of SS and AH
 - Will science students be able to branch out?
 - Majority of GE is outside of sciences
 - Any Study Abroad class could fulfill WK or WE (discipline appropriate)

Discussion of what will be presented to the faculty

- Make clear that there will not be many WE courses in the sciences and math
 - How do we staff (SS and AH; low enrollment major courses)?
 - WK class size a bit larger
- Proactive talking about staffing and accountability of a course
 - Language about expectations for each department
- How will be best address the disciplines that will be providing most of the WE courses?
- Not all EC classes will make it into the WK
 - Plan on WE offerings as well
- Provide simple modeling of numeric issues with departments
 - Politics
 - Something to guide departments
 - Take current EC categories and explain differences
- Who will make decisions about what courses make cut into each category?
 - What are the criteria?
 - How will this affect my teaching?
- Language: "a course" versus "five credits"

Where do we sit on the principle question of how does a WE course relate to the major?

Vote - option three passed

A course meeting a WE requirement must have a subject prefix other than the subject prefix(es) of a student's major(s.)

Goal Statement for GE

- Use language “seeking wisdom”
- Bob will prepare the document
 - Create seeking wisdom statement
 - Have the basic plan for EC early in the document

Determining a Plan

- Document:
 - Executive Summary (2 pages)
 - Kathleen's document – one page pictorial (reminder of the process and a timeline)
 - Worksheet towards a proposed model (2 pages)
- What do we anticipate as an end of the process this time?
 - March 10 is held for presentation at Faculty Senate
 - Move this to the start of spring quarter instead?
 - Longer vote timeline (last time was too short)
 - Paper vote
 - Who owns this once the Committee's work is done? UPEC?
- Start with CAS dept chairs
 - Meeting on January 27
- Basic components of our model after changes
 - Clearly state changes
 - Feedback on overarching goal
 - Feedback on major concerns, gaps, or objections
- Modeling
 - Cindy can calculate numbers, model for departments
 - Talk about averages, ranges
- Bob will send out docs to committee for approval and feedback

Vote – Does the Committee approve of the basic structure of what we are proposing – passed

Adjourned.