University-wide General Education Committee Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2014

Voting Members Present: Vincent Del Casino, Anna Dornhaus, Thomas Fleming, Amy Fountaın, Paul Ivey, Kimberly Jones, John Leafgren, Paul Reimer, Jennifer Ricketts (Chair), Mark Stegeman and Christine Tardy

Non-Voting Members Present: Celeste Pardee, Nicole Pagowsky

Note-taker: Rebecca Pérez

Chair Jennifer Ricketts called the meeting to order at 3:17 PM. A quorum was established with 11 voting members.

I. UWGEC members in AY2014-15
Jennifer asked which members would not be continuing on UWGEC for the next year, and two members—Vince Del Casino (SBS) and Paul Reimer (Architecture)—indicated they could not continue. Jennifer thanked them for their contributions during the past year. She will contact those college associate deans to ask that they appoint another college representative. New ASUA and GPSC representatives will also be needed.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2014
Kim motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed with 10 in favor, 1 abstention.

III. Success Course Approval
The Tier One Subcommittee presented one new Success course for consideration:

- **CALS 195, Promoting Academic Learning Strategies for Success**
  The Subcommittee agreed that the topics on the sample syllabus meet the criteria for a 1-unit Success course. The assignments are sufficiently rigorous for a 1-unit course. However, concerns were expressed about the Attendance/Class Participation policy prohibiting students from making up in-class assignments when they have an excused absence. As it stands, students who take an excused absence for a religious holiday will lose points for lack of participation. The Committee felt it was unfair to offer an excused absence without offering an opportunity to make up the in-class work.

  John Leafgren motioned to conditionally approve the course, provided students will be able to make up course work for an excused absence. The motion was seconded and passed with 11 in favor.

IV. Tier One Course Approvals
The Tier One Subcommittee presented two Computer Science proposals for consideration. Speaking for the Subcommittee, Amy Fountaın discussed these courses together:

- **CSC 150C1, The Internet & the Individual** (Individuals/Societies)
- **CSC 160D1, Milestones in Computing** (Traditions/Cultures)
  There are three issues with respect to course mechanics. First, neither syllabus indicates whether or how Honors students will be accommodated. Second, it isn't clear how students will be allowed to revise an essay in response to constructive feedback. Third, since a weekly schedule of assignments isn't included in these syllabi, the "40% rule" cannot be verified.

  More important are the issues pertaining to course content. Under the “programmatic need” for these courses is the statement, “It will introduce computer science majors to other aspects of computer science.” This is not the purpose of Tier One courses. Tier One courses should be interdisciplinary in nature, should offer breadth of knowledge and methods of inquiry, and should expose students to areas of study beyond their major and minor. Second, the content and assignments of the courses don't meet
the spirit of, or specific outcomes for, the two study areas. There was no evidence the instructors would bring a social scientific or humanities-based perspective to the course content, or that the listed instructors have adequate background to teach in these study areas. Perhaps co-teaching with a social scientist might help meet the intent of the Individuals/Societies Study Area.

Kim Jones motioned to deny CSC 150C1 based on the above-mentioned issues. Anna Dornhaus motioned to deny CSC 160D1 for the same reasons. Both motions were seconded and passed unanimously with 11 in favor. Amy Fountain will serve as the UWGEC contact with the Department.

V. Tier Two Course Approvals
The Tier Two Subcommittee presented two courses for consideration:

- **ENGL 248B, Introduction to Fairy Tales** (Humanities).
  A few issues with mechanics were identified. It isn’t clear that 40% of the grade points will be awarded by the 8th week; compliance with this criterion depends on the due date for the first essay. An Honors component is not included on the syllabus. Members also noted that there is inconsistency in the range of words required for the 2 micro essays.

Anna motioned to conditionally accept ENGL 248B for Tier Two Humanities, pending correction of these course mechanics. The motion was seconded and passed with 10 votes in favor and 1 opposed.

- **PHYS 200, Science of Good Cooking** (Natural Sciences).
  The Subcommittee felt this proposal met all criteria for Tier Two, along with the learning outcomes for Natural Sciences. However, General Education courses cannot have a math prerequisite.

Tom Fleming motioned to approve PHYS 200 for Tier Two Natural Sciences, pending the removal of the math prerequisite. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously with 11 in favor.

VI. Tools and Assessment Subcommittee Report
Anna Dornhaus presented the most recent version of the General Education student learning outcomes (SLOs). The Subcommittee had narrowed the list to two Minimum and two Advanced Learning Outcomes for each Tier One and Tier Two study area. Anna asked members for feedback on the outcomes in the study area coinciding with their discipline. Based on their suggestions, she made several revisions during the meeting.

After much discussion, members made the following decisions:
1) The minimum __advanced__ SLOs should apply to ALL courses approved for a particular tier/study area.
2) UWGEC members are responsible for obtaining acceptance/approval from their college on SLOs related to their discipline. [5/19/14 Note: This might be accomplished through Undergraduate Council and the Council on Academic Administrators next Fall.]
3) The next steps are (a) to review recently approved courses (e.g., those in AY 2013-14) and all incoming proposals with respect to the working list of SLOs to determine if any important SLOs are missing or need adjustment, and (b) to create a General Education course syllabus template incorporating the approved SLOs, and (c) to develop a strategy for promoting and helping instructors use the syllabus template.

The long-term goal of developing and using a common set of SLOs that apply to every course in Tier One/Two is that students who complete the General Education Curriculum will meet at least the minimum SLOs for each study area and possibly the advanced SLOs. These will not only serve as a basis for evaluating course proposals but as a basis for assessing General Education as a coherent component of UA bachelor’s degrees.
Vince Del Casino motioned to approve the revised Tier One/Two study area SLOs as a work in progress, to be used as a basis for evaluating all General Education course proposals. The motion was seconded and passed with 10 in favor.

Jennifer Ricketts adjourned the meeting at 4:48 PM. She wished everyone an enjoyable summer break.

*Respectfully Submitted by Rebecca Pérez, 5.15.2014*
*Edited by Celeste Pardee, 5.19.2014*