

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE  
COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE GENERAL EDUCATION  
Minutes of 14 October 2010**

**Members present:** Roberta Allen, Raja Aravamathan, Marcia Fetters, David Reinhold, and Edwin Martini. **Members absent:** John Geiser and Mustafa Mughazy. **Liaisons present:** Margaret Hamilton and Kerrie Jo Harvey (for Kevin Knutson). **Also present:** Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate Office.

**Procedural Items**

COGE Chair Marcia Fetters called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

*Acceptance of the Agenda  
Approval of Minutes from 23 September*

It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda. Motion carried.  
Approval of the 23 September minutes was moved and seconded. Motion carried.

*Chair's Remarks*

Fetters thanked members for unanimously voting for her to serve as chair. She mentioned she had a lengthy discussion with the provost on the issue of developing a review process for general education courses.

**Action Items**

*Curriculum Proposal from the Department of Foreign Languages*

- LANG 4040 East and West Literary Relations [CAS 677] – New three hour course requesting approval in Area II, Humanities, and baccalaureate-level writing proficiency.

This proposal was tabled at the 22 September meeting. As further information from the department remained outstanding, there was no discussion regarding this proposal.

*Curriculum Proposal from the Department of Political Science*

- PSCI 4240 Environmental Law [CAS 687] – new course requesting approval in Proficiency 2, Baccalaureate-level writing. (Will be cross-listed with Environmental Studies as ENVS 4150.)

Members were very impressed with the proposal submitted for this course.

Pending verification of the committee's assumption that "cross-listing" means both PSCI 4240 and ENVS 4150 are the same course and verification of the course number used in the catalog copy, approval of PSCI 4240 as a new general

education course in Proficiency 2 was moved and seconded. Motion carried.

**Continuing Business**

*Re-Approval of International Courses*

It had been suggested that COGE might review its re-approval policy for international courses. Several documents were retrieved from the Faculty Senate Office that confirmed COGE's past practice of not reviewing international courses for re-approval. Members agreed the task of reviewing its past policy would overwhelm the capabilities of the committee and decided to let past practice stand. It was noted the Senate's newly formed Transfer of Credit Committee planned to review the aspects of international course issues under its purview.

**Discussion Item**

*Process for Approving Curriculum Proposals*

Members agreed that they did not require departmental representation for the first review of a curriculum proposal. Only if there were issues with the proposal or requested follow up documentation was it necessary for a representative to be invited to discuss the proposal with members.

**Continuing Business**

*COGE Reapproval of General Education Courses in Areas IV, Other Cultures and Civilizations, and Area V, Social and Behavioral Sciences*

Although materials for re-approval were requested from departments by Friday, 30 September, very few have been received. The Senate Office is in "round up" mode, sending out reminders to departments that their materials need to be submitted.

**Other**

Reinhold mentioned that Bruce Ferrin, chair of the Undergraduate Studies Council, planned to contact COGE about a charge the USC received from the Faculty Senate Executive Board.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Janice Anderson  
Faculty Senate Office