

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE  
COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE GENERAL EDUCATION  
Minutes of 11 November 2010**

**Members present:** Roberta Allen, Raja Aravamathan, Marcia Fetters, John Geiser, David Reinhold, Edwin Martini, 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 28 October*

It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda. Motion carried.  
Approval of the 28 October minutes was moved and seconded. Motion carried.

*Chair's Remarks*

Due to the large number of curriculum proposals to be reviewed, Fetters said she would make remarks at the end of the meeting if time allowed.

**Action Items**

*Curriculum Proposals from the Department of Comparative Religion*

1. REL 2065 Islam in America [CAS 708] – new four hour course requesting approval in Area III, The United States: Cultures and Issues
2. REL 2080 Religion in Europe [CAS 709] – new four hour course requesting approval in Area V, Social and Behavioral Sciences
3. REL 3025 The Qur'an [CAS 710] – new four hour course requesting approval in Area IV, Other Cultures and Civilizations
4. REL 3115 Myth and its Study [CAS 711] – new four hour course requesting approval in Area II, Humanities
5. REL 3125 Ritual and its Study [CAS 712] – new four hour course requesting approval in Area II, Humanities
6. REL 3135 Religious Texts and Their Uses [CAS 713] – new four hour course requesting approval in Area II, Humanities
7. REL 3145 New Religious Movements [CAS 714] – new four hour course requesting approval in Area V, Social and Behavioral Sciences

8. REL 3155 Religion and Conflict [CAS 715] – new four hour course requesting approval in Area V, Social and Behavioral Sciences
9. REL 3180 Death, Dying, and Beyond [CAS 716] – new four hour course requesting approval in Area II, Humanities
10. REL 4500 Capstone Seminar in Religion [CAS 717] – new four hour course requesting approval in Proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing
11. REL 3130 Religion in America [CAS 720] – Change course number and title to REL 3015 *Christianity in the United States*; change description; and maintain approval for Area III, The United States: Cultures and Issues
12. REL 3010 Buddhist Traditions [CAS 721] – Change course number and title to REL 2010 *Buddhism*; change description; and maintain approval for Area IV, Other Cultures and Civilizations
13. REL 3030 Chinese Religion [CAS 722] – Change course number to REL 2020; change course title to *Religion in China*; change description; maintain approval for Area IV, Other Cultures and Civilizations
14. REL 3080 Japanese Religions [CAS 723] – Change course number to REL 2030; change course title to *Religions in Japan*; change description; maintain approval for Area IV, Other Cultures and Civilizations
15. REL 3020 Religion in the Indian Tradition [CAS 724] – Change course number to REL 2040; change course title to *Religion in India*; change description; maintain approval for Area IV, Other Cultures and Civilizations
16. REL 3050 The Christian Tradition [CAS 725] – Change the course number to REL 2050; change the course title to *Christianity*; change description; maintain approval for Area II, Humanities
17. REL 3070 The Islamic Tradition [CAS 726] – Change the course number to REL 2060; change the course title to *Islam*; change description, maintain approval for Area IV, Other Cultures and Civilizations
18. REL 3060 The Jewish Tradition [CAS 727] – Change the course number to REL 2070; change the course title to *Judaism*; change description; maintain approval for Area II, Humanities

Members reviewed these eighteen course proposals. Several discrepancies in the areas requesting approval appeared in some of the proposals. However, members determined those were most likely due to the “cutting and pasting process” in preparing the proposals. As it was clear to the committee which areas the department was requesting approvals in, COGE agreed that shouldn't hold up approval.

Noting that three of the courses didn't include grading scales in their syllabi,

members approved them but requested the department chair be notified to inform the instructors of those courses of that oversight on their syllabi. COGE requested two general comments be included in the approval letter to the department chair:

- (1) The syllabi for all general education courses should address the general education area the course satisfies.
- (2) The assessment of learning outcomes is encouraged to further shape these approved courses.

### **Continuing Business**

#### *COGE Re-Approval of General Education Courses in Area IV, Other Cultures and Civilizations, and Area V, Social and Behavioral Sciences*

Due to time constraints, Fetters announced finalizing the course proposal evaluation form and subcommittee assignments would occur at the next meeting.

#### *General Education - Reconceptualization and Assessment of General Education and Baccalaureate-Level Writing*

Discussion was postponed until the next meeting. Fetters requested the 1993 report from the Senate Ad Hoc Committee to Revise General Education be forwarded electronically to members for their review prior to the next meeting.

#### *Spring Meeting Schedule*

To be finalized at the next meeting.

### **Other**

The next COGE meeting is scheduled from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Thursday, 2 December, in Room 204 of the Bernhard Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Janice Anderson  
Faculty Senate Office