

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE GENERAL EDUCATION
Minutes of 2 December 2010**

Members present: Roberta Allen, Raja Aravamuthan, Marcia Fetters, John Geiser, David Reinhold, Edwin Martini, and Mustafa Mughazy. **Liaison present:** Kerrie Jo Harvey (for Kevin Knutson). **Liaison absent:** Margaret Hamilton. **Also present:** Steve Miller, Transfer Student Services, and 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 11 November*

It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda. Motion carried.
Approval of the 11 November minutes was moved and seconded. Motion carried.

Action Items

The committee reviewed the following six curriculum proposals from the College of Arts and Sciences:

Department of Political Science

1. PSCI 4220 Civil Liberties and Civil Rights [CAS 688] – change course title to *PSCI 4220 Civil Rights and Liberties*, change course description. Previously approved in Area III, The United States: Cultures and Issues. Approved by COGE.

School of Communication

2. COM 1000 Communication and Community Engagement [CAS 749] – change course description. Previously approved in Proficiency 4C, Critical Thinking. Approved by COGE.
3. JRN 4100 Specialized Reporting [CAS 755] – change course title to *JRN 4100 Multimedia Reporting* and change course description. Previously approved in Proficiency 2, Baccalaureate-Level writing. Tabled. Request course syllabus for review at next meeting.

Department of Biological Sciences

4. BIOS 1050 Environmental Biology [CAS 759] – change course description. Previously approved in Area VI, Natural Science with Laboratory (if taken with BIOS 1100) Approved by COGE. Committee was pleased to see that the general education area was mentioned in the proposed catalog copy.

5. BIOS 1100 Biological Sciences Laboratory [CAS 779] – change course description and remove pre or co-requisites. Previously approved in Area VI, Natural Science with Laboratory (if taken with BIOS 1050) Approved by COGE. One editorial correction to “Notes” in the proposed catalog copy recommended: The course satisfies General Education Area VI: Natural Science with Laboratory if taken with BIOS ~~4400~~ 1050.
6. BIOS 3500 Human Physiology for Majors [CAS 765] – change course description, approval Proficiency 2, Baccalaureate-Level writing Tabled. Request course syllabus for review at next meeting. Also, inquire why the wording of “scientific writing” in current catalog copy was removed from proposed catalog copy.

The committee reiterated these two statements should be added to all COGE curriculum approval correspondence:

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

Subcommittees were formed and assignments given for re-approval of curriculum materials received to date.

- Subcommittee #1 - Ed Martini, Kerrie Jo Harvey and Roberta Allen
- Subcommittee #2 - John Geiser, Marcia Fetters and David Reinhold
- Subcommittee #3 - Raja Aravamuthan, Mustafa Mughazy and Margaret Hamilton

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

Reinhold reported he and Ed Martini were working to develop a pilot program to engage faculty in the assessment of general education. Faculty teaching courses re-approved by COGE last year in Area III, United States: Cultures & Issues have been contacted and invited to participate in the pilot.

Spring 2011 Meeting Schedule

During the spring 2011 semester, COGE will meet on Thursdays from 2:30 to 4 p.m. The first meeting will be held on 13 January. Additional dates will be set and emailed to members prior to the first meeting.

Other

Steve Miller commented on issues with transfer equivalencies. Brief discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Janice Anderson
Faculty Senate Office