

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE GENERAL EDUCATION
Minutes of 10 February 2011**

Members present: Roberta Allen, Raja Aravamathan, Marcia Feters, John Geiser, Edwin Martini, and David Reinhold. **Member absent:** Mustafa Mughazy. **Liaison present:** Kevin Knutson. **Liaison absent:** Margaret Hamilton. **Also present:** Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate Office.

Procedural Items

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

*Acceptance of the Agenda
Approval of Minutes from 27 January 2011*

It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Members were asked to approve the 27 January minutes by email after the meeting.

Chair's Remarks

Feters reported COGE had not received a response yet from the School of Nursing regarding NURS 3550 Perspectives in Women's Health [CHHS 020-10-R1] – new course, requests approval in Area III, The United States: Cultures and Issues. The proposal remains tabled until COGE's concerns are addressed.

She reported there are still a number of courses that hadn't provided materials for re-approval in general education. Knutson said he would contact the chair of the department that had the most courses missing to offer his assistance. Once the remaining course materials were received and entered into iWebfolio, Feters requested they be divided among the subcommittees for review.

Continuing Business

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

Each of the three subcommittees provided the results of their review of materials. In general, most of the courses reviewed were re-approved.

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

Reinhold said the materials received from Bruce Ferrin, chair of the Undergraduate Studies Council, are similar to materials the college deans have sent out to their department chairs. A realistic timeline for revamping general education was discussed, along with various ways to assess general education. Reinhold mentioned a recent book that has prompted numerous articles in higher education circles, Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses.

Other

Aravamathan asked for clarification of a statement made at the Undergraduate Studies Council meeting which implied COGE had not addressed a curriculum issue. It was a situation where, upon review of a curriculum proposal, COGE reviewed but then denied approval of a department's request. The department withdrew the course from further consideration by COGE.

Reinhold announced the 2nd annual Assessment Day will take place on Friday, 25 March, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Accessing general education will be the topic of discussion at 10 a.m. There will be two sessions on Thursday, 24 March – one on assessment for administrators (for deans and chairs) and one on assessment in non-academic units.

An inquiry was made about recruitment of additional members for COGE, which is being handled through the Faculty Senate Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Janice Anderson
Faculty Senate Office