

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE GENERAL EDUCATION
Minutes of 14 April 2011**

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

Procedural Items

*Acceptance of the Agenda
Approval of Minutes from 31 March 2011*

It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda. Motion carried.
It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from 31 March. Motion carried.

Action Item

Curriculum proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences

1. SOC 2830 Methods of Data Analysis [CAS 819] – change course prefix to STAT 2830 with same title; add second pre-requisite; requests general education approval in Proficiency 3, College Level Math or Quantitative Reasoning.

This proposal was discussed at the college level and it was agreed that the Statistics Department should supply all the statistics courses for the college.

Martini moved, seconded by Allen, approval of STAT 2830 in general education Proficiency 3, College Level Math or Quantitative Reasoning. Motion carried.

New Action Items

Four curriculum proposals from the Lee Honors College

1. HNRS 2500 Leadership in the 21st Century [LHC 02-2011] - new course in Area V, Social and Behavioral Sciences
2. HNRS 2302 Jazz and Civil Rights [LHC 03-2011] - new course in Area III, The United States: Cultures and Issues
3. HNRS 2301 Jazz, Blues and the Harlem Renaissance [LHC 04-2011] - new course in Area III, The United States: Cultures and Issues
4. HNRS 2303 Vietnam and Rock [LHC 06-2011] - new course in Area III, The United States: Cultures and Issues

The scheduling information for these courses, which was requested by COGE at its last meeting and supplied by the Lee Honors College, was reviewed. The committee engaged in another lengthy discussion of the role of general education

and previous understandings noted in COGE minutes. The current committee kept returning to its discomfort with what it perceives as a basic structural problem between the LHC and general education.

Fetters summarized the concerns expressed by COGE:

- The committee does not want to review the LHC proposals as there is nothing in the general education policy that allows for special consideration to be given to LHC.
- General education courses should be developed and open to all students wishing to take them, rather than for just a special population.
- These courses are offered by a college with no board appointed faculty which COGE feels lacks the structure to support its current practice.
- The Undergraduate Studies Council should be made aware of these concerns.
- Invite the dean of the LHC to discuss this with COGE.

The following motion was moved by Martini and seconded by Geiser: Return the four curriculum proposals to the Lee Honors College expressing that the Committee to Oversee General Education did not review these courses on the basis that COGE does not support the Lee Honors College proposing general education courses for honors students. The committee recommends the LHC work through existing departmental structures at the university to offer general education courses to honors students. Motion carried.

Continuing Business

The three subcommittees gave their reviews of general education courses for re-approval in Area IV, Other Cultures and Civilizations, and Area V, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

The last COGE meeting of 2010-11 is scheduled for Thursday, 28 April.

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Janice Anderson
Faculty Senate Office