

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE GENERAL EDUCATION
Minutes of 23 September 2013**

Members present: Raja Aravamuthan, Sharie Falan, Bruce Ferrin, John Geiser, Tracy DeMars, David Reinhold and Kathryn Wagner.

Members absent: James Palmitessa and Daneen Wardrop.

Liaisons present: Nick Gauthier (substituting for Kevin Knutson) and Sharon Van Dyken. **Also present:** Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate Office.

Committee Chair John Geiser called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Procedural Items

*Acceptance of the Agenda
Approval of Minutes from the 8 April Meeting*

- Acceptance of the agenda was moved and seconded. Motion carried.
- Approval of the minutes of 8 April 2013 was moved and seconded. Motion carried.

Chair's Comments

Geiser welcomed two new members to COGE:

- Bruce Ferrin, Marketing, from the Haworth College of Business. Ferrin, former chair of the Senate's Undergraduate Studies Council, replaces Nancy Schullery on COGE. Ferrin is also a member of the Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on General Education.
- Tracy DeMars, Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies, from the College of Education and Human Development, replaces Marcia Fetters on COGE.

Nick Gauthier, academic advisor, Arts and Sciences, was welcomed as a

substitute for Kevin Knutson at this meeting.

Action/Discussion Items

*2013-14 Re-Approval of Courses in Proficiency 1, College-Level Writing
and Proficiency 2, Baccalaureate-Level Writing*

Geiser noted approximately ninety courses are up for COGE re-approval in 2013-14. He will review the re-approval process with the committee after the submission deadline later in the fall semester.

Review of Curriculum Proposals with Only Procedural Changes

A discussion on possibly allowing the COGE chair or vice chair to approve curriculum proposals when only procedural changes - with no change to the course curriculum - are requested was initiated. Members mentioned specific situations (such as the request to change a course title only) when that might be appropriate but came to no final decision. Reinhold offered to create a list of situations when that may be appropriate. It was agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Review of Curriculum Proposals

1. **[CAS 1135rev] JRN 3200, News Writing and Reporting** – existing course, requests approval to remove JRN 2200 Multimedia Journalism as a prerequisite from JRN 3200 (Proficiency 2, Baccalaureate-Level Writing)

Approval of JRN 3200 moved by Reinhold, seconded by Falan. Motion carried with one abstention.

2. **[CAS 1134rev] JRN 3100, News Reporting Using New Media** - existing course, requests approval to remove JRN 2200 Multimedia Journalism as a prerequisite from JRN 3100 (Proficiency 2, Baccalaureate-Level Writing)

Approval of JRN 3100 moved by Ferrin, seconded by Falan. Motion carried with one abstention.

3. **[CHHS 002-13] HOL 2701, Resiliency Training for Leaders** – new course, requests approval in Area VIII: Health and Well-Being.

TABLED: Discussion of HOL 2701 was tabled pending receipt of the department's response to questions that arose during its initial review of this proposal.

- a) The intent of the curriculum proposal is unclear to COGE. Does the program wish to add HOL 2701 as a new course, not as a replacement for HOL 2811?
- b) Please clarify response to #10. If not a response to assessment outcomes, what is this change in response to?

4. **[CAS 1115] GEOS 2500, Planetary Geology** – existing course in Area VI Natural Science with Laboratory, requests changing course level from 2000-level to 1000-level.

Approval of GEOS 2500 moved by Aravamuthan, seconded by Ferrin. Motion carried.

5. **[CAS 1184] REL 2000, Introduction to the Study of Religion** – existing course, requests title change to REL 2000 Thinking about Religion; addition of ENG 1050 or equivalent as a prerequisite; approval as general education course in *Proficiency 4a, Advanced Writing*.

[Correction noted: REL 2000 was listed on the agenda as requesting approval as a general education course in Proficiency 2, Baccalaureate-Level Writing, instead of Proficiency 4a, Advanced Writing.]

TABLED: Discussion of REL 2000 was tabled pending receipt of the department's response to questions that arose during its initial review of this proposal.

- a) What general education advantage does this course provide for your students?

- b) Please clarify and expand on the intent of the response to #11. COGE is concerned, as any comparable general education courses should be transferable from community colleges that WMU has agreements with.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Janice Anderson
Faculty Senate Office