

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE GENERAL EDUCATION
Minutes of 4 November 2013**

Members present: Raja Aravamuthan, Tracy DeMars, Sharie Falan, Bruce Ferrin, John Geiser, Willem Homan, Mustafa Mirzeler, James Palmitessa and David Reinhold. **Member absent:** Kathryn Wagner.

Liaisons present: 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 23 September and 21 October Meetings

- Acceptance of the agenda was moved and seconded. Motion carried.
- Approval of the minutes of 23 September and 21 October 2013 was moved by Ferrin and seconded by Homan. Motion carried.

Chair's Comments

Chair John Geiser reopened discussion on the procedures for review of curriculum proposals requesting procedural changes only - with no change to the course curriculum.

Following discussion and review of the seven proposals below which provided specific examples of the types of procedural changes, Aravamuthan moved and Ferrin seconded approval to allow the COGE chair or vice chair discretion in approving proposals with procedural changes only and no change to the course curriculum. Motion carried.

The following seven courses were all approved.

- a) [CAS14-16] ENGL 3050, Introduction to Professional Writing – approve addition of two majors/minors to take course.
- b) [CAS14-30] GWS 3000, Working Women, Past and Present – approve deletion of course, no longer taught.
- c) [CAS14-31] GWS 3300, Gender Issues in Education – approve deletion of course, no longer taught.
- d) [CAS14-32] GWS 4010, Foundations of Feminist Theory – approve addition of minimum grade of C in prerequisites.
- e) [CAS14-37] PSCI 1050, Critical Thinking about Politics – approve updating of language in catalog description to better reflect course. No change in content.
- f) [CAS14-38] PSCI 3620, Theoretical and Ideological Bases of Contemporary Politics – approve change of title for course and updating of language in catalog description to better reflect course. No change in content.
- g) [CAS14-39] PSCI 4050, National Public Policy – approve updating of language in catalog description to better reflect course. No change in content.

Action/Discussion Items

Review of Curriculum Proposals

1. Department of Comparative Religion

[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

This proposal was tabled 23 September 2013. Response from department has been received for COGE review at this meeting.

Approval of REL 2000 was moved by Falan and seconded by Ferrin. Motion carried.

2. Department of Gender and Women's Studies

[CAS 14-34] GWS 3200, Women, Multiculturalism and Social Change – request title change to Women, Globalization and Social Change, change description, remove prerequisite and change general education designation from Area V, Social and Behavioral Sciences, to Area IV, Other Cultures and Civilizations

TABLED – Discussion was tabled pending receipt of response to this question from the department. How does this course fit into Area IV criteria?

Area IV, Other Cultures and Civilizations, requires a focus on non-western issues and themes, but the committee was unable to tell how GWS 3200 addresses non-western world issues and fits into Area IV. COGE requests clarification on the focus of the course and examples of how the course fits Area IV.

3. Department of Political Science

[CAS 14-42] PSCI 4940, Seminar in Political Science – requests approval as variable topics course repeatable for credit when the course topics change. Retain approval in Proficiency 2, Baccalaureate-Level Writing.

Approval of PSCI 4940 was moved by Palmitessa and seconded by Falan. Motion carried.

4. WMU Bronson School of Nursing

[CHHS 13-13] HSV 3550, Perspectives in Women's Health – New course that will be cross-listed with NURS 3550. Requests approval in Area III, The United States: Culture and Issues.

Members noted it was important students be aware that credit would be given for only one of the two cross-listed courses. COGE recommends a statement be added to the catalog explaining that a student taking HSV 3550 would not be allowed to also receive credit for NURS 3550.

Approval of HSV 3550 was moved by Aravamuthan and seconded by Ferrin. Motion carried.

Discuss Procedures for 2013-14 Review for Re-Approval of Courses in Proficiency 1, College-Level Writing and Proficiency 2, Baccalaureate-Level Writing

Geiser provided an overview of the upcoming review and told members the procedures for re-approval of courses will be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Janice Anderson
Faculty Senate Office

TABLED PROPOSALS – Action Pending

1. Department of Comparative Religion
[CAS 14-20] REL 3190, Religion and Health – new course, approve for Area V, Social and Behavioral Sciences *(NOTE: Tabled 21 Oct 2013 - Response from department pending.)*
2. Department of Philosophy
[CAS 14-21] PHIL 3350, Medical Humanities – existing course, approve for Area II, Humanities
(NOTE: Tabled 21 Oct 2013 - Response from department pending.)
3. Integrated Holistic Health and Wellness
[CHHS 002-13] HOL 2701, Resiliency Training for Leaders – change title to Resiliency Training for Life, approve for Area VIII, Health and Well-Being
(NOTE: Tabled 23 Sept 2013 – Response from department pending.)
4. Lee Honors College/Biological Sciences
[CAS1029] HNRS 4701, Global Climate Change Effects on Ecosystem and Human Health – new course, requests approval for Area VII, Natural Science and Technology: Applications and Implications
(NOTE: Tabled in 2012-13 AY – No response from either the college or department.)