

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE GENERAL EDUCATION
Minutes of 18 November 2013**

Action/Discussion Items

Review of Curriculum Proposals

Members present: Raja Aravamuthan, Tracy DeMars, Sharie Falan, Bruce Ferrin, John Geiser, Willem Homan, Mustafa Mirzeler, James Palmitessa, David Reinhold and 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 4 November 2013 Meeting

- Acceptance of the agenda was moved and seconded. Motion carried.
- Approval of the minutes of 4 November 2013 was moved by Ferrin and seconded by Falan. Motion carried.

Chair's Comments

Palmitessa provided a handout to the committee on issues facing general education which prompted discussion. Geiser noted that he, Reinhold, Knutson and Ferrin also serve on the Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on General Education and the committee was aware of many of the issues in the handout. Reinhold commented that WMU's cafeteria style for selecting general education courses was not working as freshmen had no clue why they were required to take general education courses. By their senior year, even if they began to understand the value of general education, it was too late to be of value in their studies. Ferrin felt the university needed to develop a way to communicate why general education was important to students and parents.

1. 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

(NOTE: Tabled on 4 November - Response received from department.)

Motion to approve GWS 3200 made by Falan and seconded by Ferrin. Motion carried.

2. Environmental Studies Program

[CAS 14-49] ENVS 3000, Environment, Technology, and Value – request title change to *Introduction to Sustainability: A Local to Global Survey*, change description, change credit hours from 4 to 3, retain approval for Area VII, Natural Science and Technology: Applications and Implications

Motion to approve ENVS 3000 made by Falan and seconded by Homan. Motion carried.

3. Department of Psychology

[CAS14-1] PSY 3000, Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences – request title change to *Research Methods and Statistics*, change description, change prerequisites, approve for proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing

COGE declined to approve PSY 3000. The committee felt the course does not provide the sufficient amount of writing required for approval in Proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing.

Motion to decline approval made by Ferrin and seconded by Aravamuthan. Motion carried.

- 4. Haworth College of Business – Bachelor of Business Administration**
[HCoB 5313] BUS 3700, Integrated Communication in Business – change course prefix to BCM 3700, retain approval for proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing

Motion to approve BUS 3700 made by Aravamuthan and seconded by Ferrin. Motion carried.

[Note: BUS 3700 is scheduled to be reviewed during the COGE 2013-14 re-approval of courses in Proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing. The requested materials have been received.]

- 5. Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies**
[CoEHD 393] ES 3950, School and Society – restrict number of times course can be re-taken to once, require overall GPA of 3.0 with no grade lower than CB, retain approval for proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing

Motion to approve ES 3950 made by Falan and seconded by Homan. Motion carried.

[Note: ES 3950 is scheduled to be reviewed during the COGE 2013-14 re-approval of courses in Proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing. The requested materials have been received.]

- 6. Department of Theatre**
[T1.13-14] THEA 1000, Introduction to Theatre – request title change to *Playing with Fire: Love, Politics & Entertainment*, retain approval for Area I, Fine Arts

Motion to approve THEA 1000 made by Falan and seconded by Homan. Motion carried.

- 7. College of Health and Human Services**
[CHHS 32-13] IPE 3050, Study Abroad and Global Learning in Health and Human Services – new course, approve for Area IV, Other Cultures and Civilizations

TABLED. Area IV, Other Cultures and Civilizations, requires a focus on non-western issues and themes, so the inclusion of Ireland and the

Netherlands prevented COGE from approving the course. COGE had no issue with the proposal other than the inclusion of those two western countries.

COGE is aware that although a course may be offered in a western setting, its focus may be on non-western issues and themes. Should the department wish either the Netherlands and/or Ireland to be included in the proposal, COGE would need supporting materials explaining how the course would be taught with a non-western focus.

In addition to supporting materials provided for COGE approval, any change to the content of the original proposal requires supporting emails from the chair/director, the college curriculum committee chair and the college dean.

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 – Sent email notification on 11/14/13 that proposal will be sent back to the department unless response is received.)*