

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE  
COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE GENERAL EDUCATION  
Monday, 24 March 2014**

**Members present:** Raja Aravamuthan, John Geiser, Sharie Falan, Bruce Ferrin, Willem Homan, Mustafa Mirzeler, James Palmitessa, David Reinhold and Kathryn Wagner. Member absent: Tracy DeMars.  
**Liaisons present:** Kevin Knutson and Sharon Van Dyken. **Also present:** Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate Office.

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

**Procedural Items**

*Acceptance of the Agenda*

- Acceptance of the agenda was moved and seconded. Motion carried.
- NOTE: No minutes were taken at the 10 March meeting.

**Action/Discussion Items**

There was no discussion on the two courses from the Department of Psychology as materials requested by COGE are still pending.

- [CAS 14-1] PSY 3000, Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences
- [CAS 14-2] PSY 3300, Behavioral Research Methods

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

COGE Chair John Geiser summed up what the committee discussed and the actions under consideration by COGE:

In its review of materials submitted for re-approval, COGE has discovered there are great variations in how baccalaureate-level writing is taught across campus. In preparation for its review of baccalaureate-level writing, COGE had spent a considerable amount of time preparing a list of what departments would be expected to submit for course re-approval. Some complied but many did not. Instead of not re-approving

the courses which the committee determined do not meet minimal standards, COGE members agreed to take an instructional approach. A rubric is being developed to be used to assess courses up for re-approval in baccalaureate-level writing.

Under consideration is to approve all the courses up for re-approval this year for two more years and provide departments with the rubric that will be used by COGE to review those courses again in two years. In 2015-16, departments will be required to resubmit materials and multiple syllabi for a new re-approval based on the past two years that will be assessed by the rubric COGE created to assess baccalaureate-level writing.

For its meeting on Monday, 7 April, all members were asked to use the rubric to review five courses. Two are courses that subcommittees already reviewed and three will be new courses that haven't been assigned for review yet. The goal of this exercise is to standardize the rubric process and reach a consensus on what the rubric ratings and terminology mean.

Geiser will write the draft letter that will be sent to departments for COGE to review at its next meeting. Reinhold, associate provost for assessment and undergraduate studies, said his office would be willing to sponsor a series of workshops for faculty to talk about writing and writing assessment next year. He felt sharing syllabi that represent best practice in baccalaureate-level would be helpful.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.  
--Janice Anderson

**TABLED PROPOSALS – Action Pending**

1. Department of Psychology  
[CAS 14-1] PSY 3000, Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences – requests title change to *Research Methods and Statistics*, change description and prerequisites, approval in Proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing  
(NOTE: Course was not approved for Proficiency 2 by COGE on 18 November 2013. Response from department received. Discussion TABLED again on 2 December 2013.)

2. Department of Psychology

[CAS 14-2] PSY 3300, Behavioral Research Methods – Existing course approved in Proficiency 2, Baccalaureate-Level Writing – requests change title to *Advanced Research Methods*, change description and prerequisites  
*(NOTE: This course is up for 2013-14 COGE re-approval in Proficiency 2; however the department has requested the course be removed from Proficiency 2. TABLED 2 December 2013.)*