

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE  
COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE GENERAL EDUCATION  
Monday, 21 April 2014**

**Members present:** Tracy DeMars, John Geiser, Bruce Ferrin, Willem Homan, James Palmitessa, David Reinhold and Kathryn Wagner.  
**Members absent:** Raja Aravamathan, Sharie Falan and Mustafa Mirzeler.  
**Liaisons present:** Kevin Knutson and Sharon Van Dyken. **Guest:** Tammi Smith, Academic Advisor, Arts and Sciences. **Also present:** Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate Office.

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

**Procedural Items**

*Acceptance of the Agenda  
Approval of 7 April Minutes*

- Acceptance of the agenda was moved and seconded as amended. Motion carried.
- Approval of the minutes of 7 April was moved and seconded. Motion carried.

**Chair's Comments**

Geiser invited Ferrin to give an update about the general education survey the Senate's Ad Hoc General Education Committee sent out on Wednesday, 16 April via the WMU Secure Survey. So far, 300 replies had been received although 80 did not register responses, probably due to user error. Ferrin noted that 25% of the responses that did register replied they had no familiarity or basis to comment on general education at WMU since they were not involved in teaching it.

**Action/Discussion Items**

Discussion about General Education Credit for Transfer Students –  
Tammi Smith and Kevin Knutson

Tammi Smith and David Reinhold said the MACRO and Michigan Transfer agreements between Western Michigan University and community

colleges allow transfer students to receive general education credits for certain courses at the University that WMU students are not eligible to receive general education credit for. This is a past agreement that will not be changing.

Geiser felt this unfair and inquired what could be done to open that option up to our students. After much discussion, it was agreed the best way to handle the situation would be for the courses in question to go through the curricular review process and apply for general education status.

Review of Curriculum Proposals

*College of Fine Arts*

- **MUS 3120 Explorations in World Music [M1313-14]** - a new three-credit hour course requests general education approval in Area II: Humanities.

Reinhold pointed out a statement in the curriculum proposal: "This course will be subject to the School of Music's new policy of limiting course attempts to two (effective Fall 2015)." He questioned if a department could enforce a policy like that and said he would confer with the Registrar's Office.

COGE members felt the School of Music needed to make students aware this course was only available to those in the Lee Honors College.

Approval of MUS 3120 was moved by Palmitessa and seconded by Ferrin pending the outcome of Reinhold's inquiry plus note the course is open to honors students only. Motion carried.

*Lee Honors College*

- **HNRS 3202 Modernism in Art and Literature [LHC 14-1]** - (previously offered as Honors Seminar now requests dedicated course number) three-credit hour course requests general education approval in Area II: Humanities.

Geiser commented he was pleased to see the Lee Honors College was following the agreed upon arrangement for course approval between COGE and the LHC. He shared the opinion with several members that the agreement wasn't ideal.

The main concern with the course was that it had been delivered as a 2000-level course but was requesting approval as a 3000-level course. The committee requested the LHC be contacted to learn if the course had been pedagogically delivered as a 3000-level course while listed at the 2000-level. If so, most members felt the course should be approved.

Ferrin moved approval of HNRS 3202, seconded by Reinhold, pending an affirmative response to the concern noted above. Motion carried with one disapproval of the motion and one abstention.

NOTE: Geiser sent an inquiry to the LHC. The response was the LHC does not have a 3000-level general seminar number, so ran HNRS 3202 as a 2000-level course. It was decided the 3000-level was the most appropriate level for the permanent course number because of the level of work required in the course.

It was requested that both Music and the LHC be encouraged to include a statement on their syllabi acknowledging that the courses fulfill Area II: Humanities.

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

The committee finalized its decisions for this year's re-approval. All materials to be sent out to the departments were reviewed and approved by the committee. COGE will suspend further course re-approvals during the 2014-15 academic year to develop rubrics for each distribution area and proficiency. Reinhold recommended the committee start with the distribution areas first. Geiser felt that three or four rubrics could be developed during the fall 2014 semester.

#### *Other*

This was the last meeting of COGE in the 2013-14 academic year. It was noted that James Palmitessa's term on COGE was ending and he would not be returning as a member in the fall. In addition to teaching, he is the new director of graduate studies in the History Department. Geiser thanked Palmitessa for his service on COGE.

Reinhold also expressed appreciation to Chair John Geiser and all

committee members for all their work in the past year on behalf of general education at WMU.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 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.)