

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE GENERAL EDUCATION
22 September 2014**

Members present: Raja Aravamuthan, Tracy DeMars, Sharie Falan, John Geiser, Willem Homan, Mustafa Mirzeler, David Reinhold, Jacinda Swanson and Kathryn Wagner. **Member absent:** Bruce Ferrin (at conference). **Liaisons present:** Kevin Knutson and Sharon Van Dyken. **Guest:** C. Dennis Simpson, Faculty Senate President. **Also present:** Janice Anderson and Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. Chair John Geiser welcomed all and recognized new member, Jacinda Swanson, from Political Science, and Senate President Dennis Simpson.

Procedural Items

Acceptance of the Agenda and Approval of 21 April Minutes

The 22 September agenda and draft minutes from 21 April were approved.

Chair's Comments

Remarks – Faculty Senate President C. Dennis Simpson

Geiser invited Simpson's remarks. He thanked all for service to the University and Senate. The COGE is an important Senate committee and he requested that it work closely with the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education and the Undergraduate Studies Council regarding promotion and direction of general education at WMU. General education is currently under attack.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review of Curriculum Proposals

1. Psychology courses from last year: PSY 3000 and PSY 3300 – TABLED – Geiser and Reinhold have each been in communication with the Psychology department chair yet unsure what the department wants to do. Neither course proposal has been approved. It was requested that the Senate Office seek clarification from the department and a response to

COGE's concern there is not enough writing in PSY 3000 for its approval in proficiency 2.

- 2a. [LHC 14-02] HNRS 2900 Honors Seminar: Art of the Book; requests approval in Area II Humanities as HNRS 3201 Art of the Book – Geiser explained the COGE arrangement with the Lee Honors College to allow the college to offer a course once without COGE approval then submit a course proposal to COGE for approval as a permanent course. Aravamuthan moved approval of HNRS 3201, seconded by Falan. Motion carried.
- 2b. [CHHS 13-14] NURS 3430 Nursing Research-RN – TABLED – As this will be the first time COGE is using its new rubric for approval of proficiency 2 courses, members felt it was only fair to notify Nursing and allow changes to be made if deemed necessary by the school. It was moved to send the proposal back to Nursing and request the school review the course proposal using the new rubric, then return it to the Faculty Senate Office. The proposal may not need changes, but that is up to Nursing to determine prior to COGE review. Also, inquire how class presentation (oral communication) fulfills the writing requirement for proficiency 2.
- 2c. [CHHS 32-13] IPE 3050 Study Abroad and Global Learning in Health and Human Services – TABLED – Geiser requested the arrangements made with the college from last year be confirmed. He recalled COGE had given the college one year to clear up the issue of COGE's concern about this course requesting approval in Area IV, Other Cultures and Civilizations when some of the offering sites would indicate a western emphasis rather than the non-western emphasis required in Area IV.
3. Kevin Knutson said the MACRAO articulation agreement had transitioned into the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) which affects all community colleges and universities. He suggested Ken Schaefer, associate director of transfer admissions, be invited to speak to COGE about its impact once more information becomes available.

4. The letter and materials that were sent to all departments as a result of COGE's decision on the 2013-14 re-approval of proficiency 2 courses were provided in today's agenda packets.
5. The committee will move forward to develop rubrics for eight general education areas this year. Geiser suggested four subcommittees be formed to each work on rubrics for two areas then bring those drafts to the full membership for discussion.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.
--Janice Anderson