

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE  
COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE GENERAL EDUCATION  
Minutes of 20 October 2014**

**Members present:** Raja Aravamathan, Tracy DeMars, Bruce Ferrin, John Geiser, Willem Homan, Mustafa Mirzeler, Jacinda Swanson and Kathryn Wagner. **Members absent:** Sharie Falan, David Reinhold. **Liaisons present:** Kevin Knutson and Sharon Van Dyken. **Also present:** Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Chair John Geiser.

**Procedural Items**

*Acceptance of the Agenda and Approval of 22 September Minutes*  
Geiser indicated that COGE would not be addressing Action/Discussion Items #2 and #3 (proposals pending and proposals tabled at the last meeting), to allow discussion of the remainder of the agenda items. The agenda was accepted as noted. A motion was made by Ferrin, supported by Homan, to approve the draft minutes of 22 September. Motion carried.

*Chair's Comments*

Geiser announced he met with Carla Koretzky, dean, and Jane Baas, associate dean, of the Lee Honors College, regarding courses offered there. They are looking to work with COGE to get more writing into every class for LHC students.

Geiser encouraged COGE members to talk with chairs of the college curriculum committees to make them aware of the rubrics that have been developed for baccalaureate-level writing.

The chair inquired about allowing 5000-level courses for proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing. Discussion continued at the end of the meeting.

**ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Review of curriculum proposals – three new proposals
  - a) College of Arts and Sciences – Department of Anthropology [CAS15-24] ANTH 3470, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism – remove prerequisites of ANTH 1200 or ANTH 2400; retain approval in Area III: The United States: Cultures and Issues

Ferrin moved, supported by Mirzeler, to approve the proposal. Motion carried. Members commented they would like to encourage more proposals to eliminate prerequisites for general education courses.

- b) College of Arts and Sciences – Department of Comparative Religion  
[CAS14-139] REL 3015, Christianity in America – requests title change to Religion in America; change description; retain approval in Area III: The United States: Cultures and Issues

The proposal was tabled, as there were questions regarding the title, updated outcomes, and no syllabus was included.

- c) College of Fine Arts – School of Music  
[M1.14-15] Two-Time Course Policy – Music proposes to limit to TWO the number of times a student can enroll in an undergraduate MUS course in an attempt to earn a passing grade (C or better). This affects students taking the following General Education courses:
    - MUS 1480 Direct Encounter with the Arts
    - MUS 1500 Live Music Appreciation
    - MUS 1510 Jazz/Pop Appreciation
    - MUS 1520 Rock Music: Genesis and Development
    - MUS 3120 Explorations in World Music (proposed new course)
    - MUS 3500 American Music
    - MUS 3520 Non-Western Music
    - MUS 4500 Music Appreciation – The Symphony

A motion was made by Ferrin, seconded by Wagner, to send this proposal to the Undergraduate Studies Council, as COGE did not see that this was under its purview. Motion carried.

2. Review of curriculum proposals – Two courses still pending from last academic year – POSTPONED
  - a) 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
  - b) Department of Psychology  
[CAS 14-2] PSY 3300, Behavioral Research Methods – Existing course approved in Proficiency 2, Baccalaureate-Level Writing – requests title change to *Advanced Research Methods*, change description and prerequisites

3. Review of curriculum proposals – Two proposals tabled at the 22 September meeting – POSTPONED
  - a) Bronson School of Nursing  
[CHHS 13-14] NUR 3430, Nursing Research - RN, requests approval in Proficiency 2, Baccalaureate-Level Writing
  - b) College of Health and Human Services International Committee  
[CHHS 32-13] IPE 3050, Study Abroad and Global Learning in Health and Human Services – new interdisciplinary course requests approval in Area IV: Other Cultures and Civilizations with 1-6 variable credits

*Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education  
Bruce Ferrin, Co-Chair*

Ferrin explained that the committee had developed a three-year plan to completely re-engineer the general education program, and it already has been meeting for a year and a half. Some committee members recently attended an Association of American Colleges and Universities' Institute on General Education and Assessment, which was most informative to see what other universities are doing, both similar and dissimilar. The committee conducted a survey regarding what should be included in a new general education program and received a large number of responses. Next year is all about communication, informing everyone – students, faculty, staff, and administrators. The committee will be looking at ways to inform students, parents, and high school students about the importance of general education. President John Dunn included in his State of the University address at the Academic Convocation on 10 October the importance of general education reform and that it is one of the four focus areas that can be accomplished in the near future.

4. Moving forward with development of rubrics

The subcommittees were established and distribution areas were assigned. The proficiencies will be considered spring semester. It was noted that the work the subcommittees will be doing in creating rubrics now will assist the discussions of the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education.

- COGE Subcommittee One – Areas III & IV
- John Geiser, Biological Sciences
  - Tracy DeMars, Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies
  - Willem Homan, Aviation Sciences

- COGE Subcommittee Two – Areas V & VII
- Raja Aravamuthan, Chemical and Paper Engineering
  - Bruce Ferrin, Marketing
  - Kevin Knutson, Academic Advising, Arts and Sciences

- COGE Subcommittee Three – Areas I & VI
- David Reinhold, Assessment and Undergraduate Studies
  - Jacinda Swanson, Political Science
  - Kathryn Wagner, Theatre

- COGE Subcommittee Four – Areas II & VIII
- Mustafa Mirzeler, English
  - Sharie Falan, Nursing
  - Sharon VanDyken, Academic Advising, Aviation

The next scheduled meeting on 3 November will not be held, as subcommittees can use this time to work on their rubrics. Drafts are due to the chair by Monday, 17 November. The next meeting is set for Monday, 1 December.

#### *5000-Level Courses*

Discussion continued about why 5000-level courses cannot be used for general education courses. As COGE just completed rubrics to be applied in its review of baccalaureate-level writing courses in two years, this will result in a shortage of proficiency 2 courses that meet these standards. It was suggested that perhaps the 5000-level restriction could be amended and allowed only for proficiency 2. The committee will look at the policy and discussion will continue on this issue at the next meeting and with the Undergraduate Studies Council.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office