

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE  
COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE GENERAL EDUCATION  
Minutes of 1 December 2014**

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chair John Geiser.

### **Procedural Items**

#### *Acceptance of the Agenda and Approval of 20 October Minutes*

The agenda was accepted as provided. A motion was made by Aravamuthan, supported by DeMars, to approve the draft minutes of 20 October. Motion carried.

#### *Chair's Comments*

Along with the agenda for today's meeting, Geiser provided draft agendas for the 26 January and 9 February 2015 meetings. Due to the volume of course proposals received, this was helpful moving forward so committee members could see what was coming.

### **Action/Discussion Items**

#### **1. Review and approval of minor change**

- a) [CHHS 103-14] HOL 2801 Integrated Holistic Health and Wellness – already approved in Area VIII: Health and Well-Being, changes to description maintain spirit of what was originally approved, adds requirement for service learning which has always been part of course, everything else is the same  
A motion was made by Geiser and supported by the committee, to approve the proposal. Motion carried.

#### **2. Review of curriculum proposals**

- a) **College of Fine Arts – School of Music** (from 20 October meeting)  
[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

At the 20 October meeting, the committee approved sending this proposal to the Undergraduate Studies Council, as COGE did not see that this was under its purview. The proposal is on the USC's 2 December agenda.

### **Lee Honors College**

- b) [LHC 15-09] HNRS 4101 Introduction to World Cinema – new course (formerly taught under HNRS 4100 Topics in Fine Arts); requests approval in Area I: Fine Arts

It appeared that the syllabus provided was not the correct one. If the syllabus was correct, then more comprehensive description of how this course fulfills Area I outcomes was needed. The proposal was tabled and the college will be contacted regarding the syllabus.

- c) [LHC 15-10] HNRS 4102 Studies in Film – new course (formerly taught under HNRS 4100 Topics in Fine Arts); requests approval in Area I: Fine Arts

There was confusion as to whether this was a multi-topic course. If not, more information would be needed on how this course fulfills the desired outcomes for Area I. The proposal was tabled and the college will be contacted to address the committee's concerns.

- d) [LHC 15-07] HNRS 2900 Honors Seminar: The Texas Tour – requests approval as HNRS 3304 The Texas Tour in Area III: The United States: Cultures and Issues

The curriculum form requested approval in Area III, while the catalog copy referenced Area V: Social and Behavioral Sciences. The proposal was tabled and the college will be contacted to clarify which area is being requested and if Area III, COGE would like to see a more involved explanation of how this fits the learning outcomes.

- e) [LHC 15-08] HNRS 2900 Honors Seminar: Vues d' Afrique – requests approval as HNRS 3401 Vues d' Afrique in Area IV: Other Cultures and Civilizations

The proposal was tabled and amplified learning outcomes are requested, as well as a better syllabus so COGE can understand the request to approve this course for Area IV. In its discussion of material provided, COGE felt it was more appropriate for Area I.

- f) [LHC 15-04] HNRS 2302 Civil Rights and Jazz, 1970-75 – change credit hours from 3 to 4; change from 2000- to 4000-level course to HNRS 4302; retain approval in Area III: The United States: Cultures and Issues
- g) [LHC 15-05] HNRS 2301 Jazz, Blues, and the Harlem Renaissance – change credit hours from 3 to 4; change from 2000- to 3000-level course to HNRS 3301; retain approval in Area III
- h) [LHC 15-06] HNRS 2303 Vietnam and Rock – change credit hours from 3 to 4; change from 2000- to 3000-level course to HNRS 3303; retain approval in Area III

A motion was made by Reinhold, supported by Aravamuthan, to approve HNRS 2301, 2302, and 2303. Motion carried. The committee noted that all proposals should include a syllabus, catalog copy and demonstrate how the course and learning outcomes fulfill the general education area being requested.

### **3. Development of Rubrics**

- a) Area II Rubrics

Van Dyken provided an update on the subcommittee looking at Area II rubrics, which has met two or three times. It was felt this was the least specific and more difficult, with a disconnect with the syllabus and the rubrics.

- b) Area III Rubrics

Geiser reported that the subcommittee went through learning outcomes. Course caps may not apply to all areas, but are needed for proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing and proficiency 1, college-level writing. Caps are impractical in some cases, as some courses can't be taught in small classes. It was suggested that a comment row should be added for each rubric.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office