

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE  
COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE GENERAL EDUCATION  
Minutes of 26 January 2015**

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

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

**Procedural Items**

*Acceptance of the Agenda and Approval of 1 December Minutes*

The agenda was accepted as provided. A motion was made by Ferrin, supported by Homan, to approve the draft minutes of 1 December. Motion carried.

*Chair's Comments*

Along with the agenda for today's meeting, Geiser provided a draft agenda for the 9 February meeting so committee members were aware of upcoming proposal review.

- Geiser introduced Sue Brodasky, the new Faculty Senate Administrator, who will be attending COGE meetings in the future.
- At its meeting on 2 December, the Undergraduate Studies Council approved the Music proposal considered earlier by COGE that would limit to two the number of times a student can enroll in an undergraduate Music course in an attempt to earn a passing grade (C or better). This affects students taking Music general education courses. The proposal was forwarded to USC by COGE, as the committee did not see that this was under its purview.
- Geiser will be meeting with USC on 10 February, providing a report from COGE regarding recent activities of the committee.
- The deadline for new courses to make it into the catalog is the end of March.

**Action/Discussion Items**

**1. Review of curriculum proposals**

- a) [CAS 15-60] ANTH 3530 Bioarchaeology – existing course, requests approval for proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing requirement
- b) [CAS 15-52] PSY 3780 Laboratory in Physiological Psychology – requests approval for proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing requirement
- c) [CAS 15-51] PSY 3844 Professional and Career Development – requests approval for proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing requirement
- d) [CAS 15-54] PSY 4526 Human Drug Use and Abuse – requests approval for proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing requirement
- e) [CAS 15-50] PSY 4574 Cross Cultural Psychology – requests approval for proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing requirement
- f) [CAS 15-53] PSY 4595 History of Psychology – requests approval for proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing requirement

All six of these proposals request general education approval for proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing and were tabled so that additional information can be gathered enabling COGE members to score each course using the rubric developed last year for proficiency 2. Further discussion will continue at the next meeting.

**2. Review of tabled proposals**

Lee Honors College

- a) [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.

This proposal was previously tabled, as it appeared that the syllabus provided was not the correct one. A new syllabus and revised form were submitted. A motion was made by Aravamuthan, supported by DeMars, to approve the proposal. Motion carried.

- b) [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

This proposal was previously tabled due to a discrepancy in the syllabus and curriculum form. An additional syllabus was submitted. The course is meant to be a multi-topic course that can be repeated, not focused on only one director, so the title seems appropriate. A motion was made by Ferrin, supported by Aravamuthan, to approve the proposal. Motion carried.

3. **Discussion of opening 5000-level courses to Baccalaureate-Level Writing**

The committee continued discussion about the possibility of opening up 5000-level courses for approval for proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing. A comment was made that this proficiency seemed more appropriate at the end of a student's collegiate studies. Geiser would like to bring this discussion to the USC when he meets with the council on 10 February.

4. **Development of Rubrics**

- a) Discussion of Area II & III Rubrics

The committee continued discussion of Area II and III rubrics, and talked about course caps.

**Adjournment**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 9. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office