

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE GENERAL EDUCATION
Minutes of 9 February 2015**

Members Present: Raja Aravamuthan, Tracy DeMars, Sharie Falan, Bruce Ferrin, John Geiser, Willem Homan, Mustafa Mirzeler, David Reinhold, Jacinda Swanson

Member Absent: Kathryn Wagner

Liaison Present: Sharon Van Dyken

Liaison Absent: Kevin Knutson

Staff: Sue Brodasky, Suzanne Davenport

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

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Aravamuthan, seconded by Ferrin, to accept the agenda as provided. Motion carried.

Approval of 26 January Minutes

A motion was made by Aravamuthan, supported by Ferrin, to approve the minutes of 26 January 2015. Motion carried.

Chair's Comments – John Geiser

Chair Geiser's comments included:

- New courses will need to be completed by the end of March.
- A meeting is scheduled with the Undergraduate Studies Council to discuss: 1) the rubrics developed by COGE, 2) an issue previously raised by K. Knutson regarding the catalog under which students enter the University, and 3) 5000-level courses. It was confirmed that all baccalaureate-level writing courses will be reviewed again in the fall.
- It was questioned how the rubrics get published to the website. S. Davenport confirmed that any approved items should be provided to her for distribution on the website.

ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review of curriculum proposals

1. [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.

The course will be re-assessed as baccalaureate writing with the rubric when all baccalaureate courses are reviewed. Discussion was held regarding the learning outcomes defining how the course will be delivered rather than the syllabus.

A motion was made by B. Ferrin, seconded by W. Homan, to approve the proposal as submitted. Motion carried.

2. [CAS 15-33] REL 3111 Superhero Comic Book Religion – new course, requests approval in Area II: Humanities

It was noted that according to the criteria for Area II, courses should develop appreciation for their intellectual and aesthetic integrity and imaginative scope, which appears to be lacking. It would not pass if the rubric were applied, but as that is still in development it cannot be subjected to that review. There were concerns expressed that the learning outcomes on the form were not included in the syllabus and the committee will ask the department to provide them.

A motion was made by Ferrin, seconded by DeMars, to approve with the caveat that the learning outcomes are added to the syllabus. Motion carried.

3. [CHHS 27-14] HSV 4400 Diversity and Inclusion in Health and Human Services – new course, requesting approval in Area III: The United States: Cultures and Issues

The self-awareness assignment described assumes a nuclear family in a course that focuses on diversity which could be construed to cause major conflict. Discussion was held regarding the interpretation of the self-awareness assignment. It was questioned if the committee is to consider the assignments when deciding if the course is applicable to Area III approval, to which it was noted that course content must be considered but only to the extent that the course applies as General Education, however, the committee is encouraged to provide feedback on specifics such as assignments. Discussion was held regarding the health care system portion of the course provision for religious beliefs.

A motion was made by Aravamuthan, seconded by Falan to approve as presented. Aravamuthan and DeMars abstained. Motion carried. The chair was asked to provide the committee's feedback with the notification of approval to the department regarding the language in the self-awareness assignment so that it promotes inclusion.

4. [CAS 15-44] ENVS 1000 Climate Challenged Society – new course, requests approval in Area V: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Discussion was held regarding the course's reflection of social science when it is focused on climate change and its effects on society.

A motion was made by Homan, seconded by Ferrin, to approve as provided. Motion carried.

5. [CAS 15-85] GWS 3500 Psychological Perspectives on Gender – change title to Psychosocial Perspectives on Gender; requests change from Area III: The United States, Cultures and Issues to Area V: Social and Behavioral Sciences

The title change does not need to be addressed. The committee expressed that it was unclear how this course was approved in Area III initially but acknowledged that the course may have evolved a great deal over time. Discussion was held. It was confirmed that the committee should not be reviewing the course content as it has already been approved as a General Education course, but rather if the course can be applied in Area V.

A motion was made by Falan, seconded by Homan, to approve as provided. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the re-evaluation of the WMU General Education program. It was confirmed that all General Education courses will be subject to approval again once the new program has been established and implemented.

Review of tabled proposals requesting approval for proficiency 2, baccalaureate-level writing

A motion was made by Ferrin, supported by Geiser, to remove the following items from the table, since the requested information had been received. Motion carried.

- a) [CAS 15-60] ANTH 3530 Bioarchaeology
- b) [CAS 15-52] PSY 3780 Laboratory in Physiological Psychology
- c) [CAS 15-51] PSY 3844 Professional and Career Development

A motion was made by Aravamuthan, seconded by Falan, to approve items a), b), and c) as provided, with a comment to the department regarding writing in PSY 3844. Motion carried.

- d) [CAS 15-54] PSY 4526 Human Drug Use and Abuse
- e) [CAS 15-50] PSY 4574 Cross Cultural Psychology
- f) [CAS 15-53] PSY 4595 History of Psychology

Items d), e) and f) were discussed and it was acknowledged that

these three courses fell in the median of the rubric due to course caps not being provided. It was noted that if the course caps fell in the acceptable range the course would all be in the passing range of the rubric.

A motion was made by Ferrin, seconded by Falan to approve d), e), and f) pending receipt of the department's confirmation of course caps. Motion carried.

Development of Rubrics

The rubric scales were confirmed as 0 to 7 denial as a General Education course, 8 to 14 the course would be tabled and the department would be asked to provide further clarification and/or details, and 15 to 21 approval as a General Education course.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for February 23. The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 11:24 a.m.

Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator