General Education Committee Meeting

11/29/2018

Attendees: Susan Kattwinkel (Chair), Susan Divine (Recorder), Matthew Cressler, Alex Kasman, Allison Jones, Chris Mothorpe, Emily Skinner, Gia Quesada. Ex-Officio and Non-voting: Ryan Thompson (SGA representative) and Lynn Ford

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<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
<th>Decision or Action needed</th>
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<td>1. Call to order</td>
<td>Susan Kattwinkel called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>2. Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Report from Susan K on Advisory Committee to the President meetings and Faculty Senate meeting. Report on discussion of Gen Ed month.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>3. Senate meeting</td>
<td>Special topics courses: there was a request to not teach special topics courses multiple times without making them official classes. Questions arose over the deadline for turning in a proposal to make a class official. Anything that is approved by the senate by the last senate meeting in the spring can go in the catalog in the fall.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>4. Math alternative</td>
<td>Update on the math alternative: The finance dept is still working on the finance class proposal. Computer science is not currently interested in offering a math alternative because they believe their courses such as CSCI 220 could satisfy the criteria for the Gen Ed Math/Logic requirement (not just the alternative) and also because they are worried about their class sizes increasing. The adjunct who had shown interest in teaching a math alternative course similar to the foreign language alternative is no longer able to give the class.</td>
<td>Susan K will send an email to Computer Science to clear up lingering confusion, specifically in regards to what the alternative means in regards to student ability, and that there are relatively few students who would need this alternative. Including a class as a math alternative will not likely create a burden on their numbers. Susan K will also tell them that they can propose CSCI 220 as a regular Gen Ed class. The committee pointed out that this will certainly increase the number of students in computer science.</td>
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<td><strong>5. Report from Ryan Thompson</strong></td>
<td>His motion to add Gen Ed information on the student webpage passed. The SGA agrees that there should be more information on Gen Ed and supports the committee putting up more information. The fear is that that certain departments are using SGA to push agendas.</td>
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| **6. Discussion of elements of potential Gen Ed website** | List so far of info for website:  
1. History of Gen Ed at the college  
2. Reasoning for our current requirements  
3. List and discussion of Gen Ed learning outcomes  
4. Videos of students discussing the benefits of their Gen Ed courses  
5. List of courses that might round out other majors (concern that this might reinforce the misconception that any course which is not directly applicable to a student’s major or career goals is a waste of their time).  
6. Have incoming president Hsu comment on the importance of liberal arts  
7. Links to courses that fulfill Gen Ed requirements and promote courses.  
Can we start approaching students who may be good candidates to talk about Gen Ed? | In the Spring we can make a google doc and work together on these points. Once we have a better idea of a time-line we can start approaching students. We will take this up again in the Spring. |
| **7. Student proposal to add ASL as a foreign language** | A group of students want to get America Sign Language (ASL) added as a foreign language. Their argument is that it’s available on the north campus as an elective and should be available on the main campus and count as a foreign language. The students first approached LCWA, they were not receptive to the idea, and asked if the GenEd committee could take up the motion.  
The argument against it from assistant Dean of LCWA, Shawn Morrison, is that it’s not a “foreign language” and that the “cultural” |   |
aspect is not as strong as in more traditional foreign language catalog.

Susan K shared a site from the University of New Mexico that advocates for ASL as a “foreign language”.

Could ASL count as foreign language credit if it was taken in high school? While on a case-by-case basis students have been given credit for languages not taught at CofC, students have not been allowed to transfer in credit for ASL to satisfy the foreign language requirement.

Would there be enough students to take this course?

Would this have to be housed in LCWA? Would this be better in Education?

Is this even a question for the Gen Ed committee?

Susan K will draft a letter to students explaining the difficulties of this process of both accepting transfer credit and including it as a GenEd requirement. We could give them some ideas as a starting point to continue their proposal. However, this is out the purview of the Gen Ed committee to propose requirements to departments.

The committee will CC both Sean Morrison and Tim Johnson.

This could also be a resolution for SGA.

8. Announcement from Lynn Ford. Karen Smail will be the new Gen Ed Coordinator, starting in the Spring. Thank you for your service, Gia!

N/A

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.