

General Education Committee Meeting

5 December 2022

5:00pm held over Zoom

Members in attendance:

Suanne Ansari (co-chair)

William McCorkle (co-chair)

Absentee: John Chadwick

Carmen Grace

Susan Kattwinkel

Blanche McCune

Purushottam (PL) Meena

Absentee: Bradlee Howell – Student member

William Veal – Speaker of the Faculty (Guest)

Absentee: Gia Quesada (ex officio)

Absentee: Karen Smail (ex officio)

Meeting Minutes

- I. Minutes approved from the November 14, 2022, meeting.
- II. Courses to review SPAN 332 and LACS 340.

LACS 340, Afro-Latin America and Afro-Caribbean Studies. This course was approved for the REI Student Learning Outcomes. Susan asked about what basis do we have to assess this type of courses. Will answered that the REI content should be 1/3, and Carmen added that it must have two of the 3 SLOs. The course was approved.

SPAN 332, Topics in Spanish for Health through Culture. This course was pending approval from the previous meeting. Dr. Fredrick updated the syllabus and the Signature Assignment to reflect the literary approach of the course. The committee thought the syllabus made more sense and the literary approach was clear, so it was approved.

- III. **General Education Course Review subcommittee.** Members: Susan Kattwinkel, John Chadwick, Blanche McCune, and Purushottam PL Meena.

Susan talked about the meeting the subcommittee had with Karen; she walked them through the process of the reading groups for each area. The GenEd committee does not have any connection with these reading groups. Reading groups work on these reviews for the long term and get paid for two days at the end of the year. They read through all the signature assignments. Although the groups work differently, they originate statistics; the question is how they come out with these benchmarks because they never reach them. For problematic areas, the groups are supposed to be responsible for the change to happen and are responsible for closing the loop; they update the chairs and deans. One group said that it was Karen's job to close the

loop, but Susan thinks that the easiest approach is to ask Karen for a list of courses that didn't meet expectations: syllabi and signature assignments. And then, they need to talk about other things as well.

Will added that the department is responsible for gathering everything, not the faculty. Susan said this was what Karen said—that some departments don't have anyone to ask for the assignments. Then, Susan raised the question if the GenEd Committee has the power to remove courses if they don't send the assignments. Also, a colleague that belongs to one of the reading groups said to Susan that the prompts need work more than the artifacts. Blanche argued that the better approach was to remind the departments because if we remove their courses, they can start the process to be included again.

Will Veal asked how these courses are assessed and where the reports go because we need to submit them to SACS. Susan explained that the process is that committees submit to chairs, then to SACS, but there are some cracks because there needs to be someone to supervise this thoroughly. There is a GenEd Access Class in OAKS with information and assessment.

Suanne wondered if we should approach the senate about this. Susan thought we needed to link with the reading groups before doing anything with the senate. Blanche added that we should remind them that there is a problem and departments need to be aware. Susan said that this could be done in orientation.

IV. **Math/Logic Alternative.**

Carmen informed that Karen would meet with Gia to talk about Business courses as Math Alt. There were both absents in this meeting, so the update is pending for next semester.

Carmen did update about the Foreign Language Alternative. She talked to Anne Osowski, the Center of Disability Services director; next semester, Anne will take two steps:

1. She will contact Department Chairs to review the listing of alternative course options relevant to their department to identify what courses are no longer taught and provide that information to the committee so that they can be removed.
2. She will encourage Department Chairs to submit requests for new, relevant courses to be considered as foreign language alternative GE options.

If Chairs have questions, Carmen will be the contact person.

- V. **Further discussion: REI and Founding document responsibilities.** CHE (Commission of Higher Education) has to approve the Foundation Documents courses. Susan attended the meeting, and two commissioners thought that Susan's class should not be part of the founding document courses because it was a theater class. She did a defense to make clear that a real historian teaches this class. In the end, they were convinced and consented to the class.

President Zsu sent information about REI. It is essential to have a process and an official way so that CHE can approve these REI and Funding Documents courses. Will Veal remarked that this is why an extended GenEd committee or a new committee could house the REI and Funding documents. He will reach out to Mark Del Mastro on how to proceed after they discuss this at the senate.

Next meeting is TBD. Suanne will send a poll to come out with the spring schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carmen Grace