

**GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL**

**Meeting of April 3, 2003**

**Minutes**

**PRESENT:**

**Faculty:** Peg Camp, Valerie Cisler, Sandy Cook-Fong, Randall Heckman, Allan Jenkins, Sonja Kropp, Larry Kuskie, John Lillis, Marta Moorman, Chuck Peek, Janet Steele, Kenya Taylor, Ed Walker  
**Ex officio members:** Jeanne Cutler, Mary Daake, Kristi Milks, Ken Nikels, Kim Schipporeit, and Bill Wozniak

**ABSENT:** Doug Carroll

Wozniak called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Jennings Room of Ryan Library.

**A. DISTRIBUTION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

(Already approved)

**B. CD/WI COURSE SUBMISSIONS**

**1. Writing Intensive:**

- a. **ENG 250, Intro to Literature: British Literature: Irish Literature (Anita Lorentzen Wells)**
- b. **ENG 337, Popular Literature (Rebecca Umland)**
- c. **PSY 280H, Lord of the Rings as Modern Myth (Kevin Byrd)**

*Peek (Camp) moved for the approval of all three WI proposals. Motion passed.*

**C.**

**D. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. WI Cleanup:**

- a. **Designation of BIO 420 (Hertner) as WI for Spring, 2003.**
- b. **Emergency review of new WI instructor for FCSC 440 (April Church) and designation of that course as WI for Spring, 2003.**

**2. CD Cleanup:**

- a. **Designation of JMC 130 (Ruth Brown) as CD for Spring, 2002.**
- b. **Designation of JMC 130 (Ruth Brown) as CD for Spring, 2003.**

**3. Notification of new WI course-instructor assignments:**

a. **BMKT 435, Market Research (Seshadri)**

Wozniak described the review process of the above courses, #1 and #2 were reviewed by the appropriate subcommittees, and #3 by him in accord with recently-approved policy. All of the items, #1 - #3 were approved.

4. **Re-Reconsideration of Policy Concerning Department Chair Clerical Errors-expansion to include CD courses:**

Wozniak asked the Council to give formal approval of extension of the policy concerning retroactive approval of WI courses to CD courses. *Jenkins (Cook-Fong) moved for approval of the following policy:*

If a course had been approved for CD status and had been offered by an approved CD instructor, but the Department Chair or Program Director did not list the course as CD in the schedule for a particular semester, then the Chair of the Department or Program may request to have the course designated as CD retroactively. (All approvals were obtained before the beginning of the course in question.) The request must be approved by the General Studies Council before the changes can be recorded at the Registrar's Office.

*The motion passed.*

E.

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Questions concerning General Studies course substitution policy:**

Wozniak asked the Council for input concerning his decisions about substituting 300 or 400-level classes for General Studies classes. Wozniak described the general strategy of not allowing upper-division courses to substitute for GS classes. Also he described his strategy of justifying substitutions in terms of meeting the spirit of the diversity of program offerings. Two specific cases were discussed. The Council did not report any disagreement with Wozniak's current decision making.

In addition, Wozniak asked for advice concerning how to handle reports of instructors not following WI guidelines for courses listed as WI. The department Chair will first be contacted especially in the case of the adjunct instructors.

Wozniak also asked if public posting of the meeting agenda and minutes was necessary. Such posting occurred when the General Studies Committee was a Faculty Senate Committee. It was agreed that posting the agenda was appropriate. The posting could also mention that minutes of General Studies Council are available on the web.

2. **New General Studies Course Proposals:**

a. **SOWK 170, Social Welfare-new course in Personal Development.**

*Cook-Fong (Walker) moved for approval of SOWK 170 as a General Studies course in the Personal Development category.* Moorman asked if the moratorium on General Studies changes had been lifted. Wozniak replied that no restrictions have been placed on the General Studies Council activities, but any action will still need to be approved by the SVCAA. *The motion passed.*

- MUS 159, Fundamentals of Piano-new course in Personal Development.

*Peek (Cisler) moved for approval of MUS 159 as a General Studies course in the Personal Development category. Cisler described how she viewed the course as meeting the criteria for the category. The motion passed, with one dissenting vote.* As a point of order, Jenkins recalled there was a General Studies Council policy requiring any new course or other change to the General Studies program to be presented at one meeting with the formal vote on the proposal at the next meeting. This would allow the Council members to take the proposal back to the Colleges for comment. Several other members of the Council recalled the policy. Rather than rescind the vote or change the policy, the consensus was to follow the policy and consider the above votes to be first-round approval.

3. Liberal Studies at UNK-A proposal for restructuring the program.

Peek described a proposal for reorganizing the General Studies program ([see attachment-Liberal Studies at UNK](#)). The purpose of the proposal is to make the General Studies program more visible and comprehensible to the students and faculty. He hoped to have the General Studies Council begin serious discussion on the nature of the program, whatever its form. He asked for no action at this meeting, but asked that discussion of the issue become a regular agenda item.

4. Forms for CD, WI, and Student Appeals

5. Consideration of Recommendations from 2002 and 1988 Academic Program Review

6. Capstone course proposal

7. General Studies Assessment

Wozniak reported that, because of information from a recent visit by NCA official, Bob Appelson, General Studies assessment must become our top priority. Items #4 - 6 will be postponed until further notice. Wozniak distributed a draft of a document that will ultimately become the General Studies Assessment Plan. He asked the Council members to read the document so we can move forward with some assessment activities at the May meeting.

## G. MISCELLANEOUS

## H. NEXT MEETING

The next General Studies Council meeting has been rescheduled from May 1 to May 6 at 3:30 pm in the Sisler Room.