

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY
GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL
Meeting of September 4, 2003
3:30 PM, Residence of Dr. Charles Peek, 2010 Fifth Avenue
MINUTES

PRESENT:

Faculty: Valerie Cisler, Randall Heckman, Allan Jenkins, Sonja Kropp, Larry Kuskie, John Lillis, Marta Moorman, Chuck Peek, Janet Steele, Kenya Taylor, Ed Walker

Ex officio/non-voting members: Mary Daake, Kristi Milks, Kim Schipporeit, and Bill Wozniak

Absent: Peg Camp, Sandy Cook-Fong, Jeanne Cutler

Wozniak called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m.

A. DISTRIBUTION OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2003

B. CD/WI COURSE SUBMISSIONS

1. Writing Intensive:

a. FCSC 486, Families in Crisis (Asay):

Kuskie (Taylor) moved for approval of the revised course as WI. Motion passed.

b. GEOG 450, Senior Geography Project (Dart):

Heckman (Jenkins) moved for approval of the course. Motion passed.

Professor Dart was present to discuss different department models used for independent-research-type courses. In many cases, the Department Chair is listed as the instructor but the mentoring of the individual projects may be assigned to other instructors. For example, in the Psychology Department, all of the faculty have WI status and any may be assigned as a mentor for a WI independent study course. The responsibility of monitoring the whether the WI criteria are met rests with the department Chair. Given courses taught by "Staff" are not designated as WI until the specific WI-approved instructor is identified, Professor Dart agreed he would be listed as the instructor for the course, and he will work to gain WI approval for all potential GEOG 450 instructors before next semester.

c. BACC 311, Business Law (Michael Tye):

Upon review of the course syllabus, the Council noticed the writing activities did not seem to meet the WI course criteria. *Heckman (Walker) moved to table the request pending further information.* Also the policy that, once a course had begun, no "retroactive" approvals would be given. The pros and cons of strictly following the policy were discussed. Wozniak will investigate the matter further and report back to the Council.

2. Cultural Diversity:

a. none

C.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. WI Cleanup:

. none

2. CD Cleanup:

. none

3. Notification of new WI course-instructor assignments

. ART 303, History of Renaissance Art (Lang)

4. Internationalizing the Curriculum (Jerry Fox)

. Professor Fox was present to lead a discussion of the article "The Internationalized Campus: A Strategic Approach" and to promote the idea of an internationalization review of the UNK curricula. Such a movement would require a strong commitment on the part of the administration and faculty. Ways to move forward were discussed. The difference between a cultural diversity class and an international experience were discussed, especially with regard to some of the CD proposals the Council had reviewed. Specific ideas for the General Studies Program will be discussed and compiled by the Cultural Diversity Committee and reported to the full Council.

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

. Professor Peek led a discussion of the article, "Greater Expectations" and a proposal for changing the General Studies program. His proposed "Liberal Studies" Program included a section addressing core competencies (Writing, Speaking, and Critical Thinking), a modern languages component, and a "general studies" component. The "general studies" component would include a distribution of categories of introductory courses and the possibility of taking advanced coursework in an area of interest. A variety of issues were discussed including, measuring competencies of students within sections of the general studies program, whether the present system (a major, a minor, and free electives) allows sufficient depth of study of a particular topic, and the necessity to separate student credit production issues from liberal education issues. The discussion will continue in future meetings. Wozniak promised to bring some of the proposals from the last academic program review to further sharpen the discussion.

E.

F. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Change in Prerequisites for CHEM 160:** Wozniak presented information concerning a proposed change in the prerequisites for CHEM 160. Given the number of consequent changes in programs requiring CHEM 160, the proposal has changed to:
"CHEM 160, prerequisites: MATH 102 or minimum MATH ACT of 20 or permission of instructor." The change required no action of the Council.

G. MISCELLANEOUS

H. NEXT MEETING

The next General Studies Council meeting is scheduled for October 2 in 2122 Founders Hall.

Other meeting dates for the 2003-2004 academic year.

- **General Studies Council at 3:30 pm:**
Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4, 2003; Feb 5, Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6, 2004.
- **Subcommittee meeting times:**
 - **WI Subcommittee: 2:30 Thursdays-two weeks before GSC**
Sept 18, Oct 23, Nov 20, Jan 22, Feb 19, Mar 18 (SB), Apr 22
 - **CD Subcommittee: 3:30 Tuesdays-two weeks before GSC**
Sept 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 16 (SB), Apr 20
 - **Assessment Subcommittee: 1:30 Mondays-two weeks before GSC**
Sept 15, Oct 20, Nov 17, Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 15 (SB), Apr 19