

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY
GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL
Meeting of November 6, 2003 MINUTES

PRESENT:

Faculty: Peg Camp, Valerie Cisler, Sandy Cook-Fong, Randall Heckman, Allan Jenkins, Sonja Kropp, John Lillis, Marta Moorman, Chuck Peek, Janet Steele, Kenya Taylor, Ed Walker

Ex officio/non-voting members: Jeanne Cutler, Mary Daake, Kristi Milks, Glen Powell, Tanis Saldivar, Kim Schipporeit, and Bill Wozniak

Absent: Larry Kuskie, Karen Malmkar, Alicia Spelts

Wozniak called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

A. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2, 2003 ALREADY APPROVED VIA E-MAIL

B. CD/WI COURSE SUBMISSIONS

1. Writing Intensive:

- a. ENG 280H, Special Topics: Utopian Literature (Luscher)
- b. JMC 409, Public Relations Strategies (Terry)
- c. PE 461, Physiology of Exercise (Lopez, Unruh, Heelan) - change from 3 to 4 credit hours
- d. ENG 214, Beginning Fiction Writing (Lines, new WI instructor)
- e. CJ 380, Minorities and Criminal Justice (Wiersma)
- f. FSID 490, Special Topics: European Heritage Tour (Moore, new WI instructor)
- g. BIO 103, General Biology (Holley, new WI instructor)
- h. HIST 280H, Medieval Europe (Reider, new WI instructor)
- i. HIST 495, Topical Studies: Medieval Europe (Reider)
- j. CHEM 300, Environmental Chemistry (Mosher)
- k. SPCH 401, Special Topics: History of American Oratory (Eckloff)
- l. TE 331, Intermediate Literacy (Agard, Batenhorst, Powell, Hansen)
- m. TE 411, Inclusive Practices for Student with Exceptionalities in Pre-K-6 Classrooms (Montgomery, Lewis, Hudson, Mollenkopf, Walden)

Wozniak reported the WI subcommittee reviewed all of the above proposals and recommends approval. The package also included the approval of 4 new WI instructors. *Peek (Moorman) moved for approval of items a - m. The motion passed unanimously.*

2. Cultural Diversity:

- a. ELED 373 (aka TE 352), Teaching Elementary Social Studies (Walker)

- b. TE 411, Inclusive Practices for Student with Exceptionalities in Pre-K-6 Classrooms (Montgomery, Lewis, Hudson, Mollenkopf, Walden)
- c. ENG 280H, Special Topics: Utopian Literature (Luscher)
- d. THEA 120, Introduction to Theatre (Garrison)
- e. FSID 490, Special Topics: European Heritage Tour (Moore)

Wozniak reported the CD committee recommended approval of (a) ELED 373 and (b) TE 411. *Cook-Fong (Cisler) moved for approval of items a and b. The motion passed unanimously.* The CD committee recommended tabling ENG 280H and THEA 120 pending receipt and review of more information in the course syllabi. The CD committee did not recommend approval of FSID 490. No action was taken for items c, d, and e.

C.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. WI Cleanup:

- a. none

2. CD Cleanup:

- a. none

3. Notification of new WI course-instructor assignments

- a. none

4. General Studies Assessment Update

Wozniak said he is surveying GS departments to see if any departments have any student outcome assessment occurring for their GS classes. Chris Exstrom of Chemistry said Chemistry is using a standardized Chemistry exam in CHEM 160 and will provide the data to General Studies. Rick Miller in Psychology has agreed to run a pilot program for assessing PSY 203 using a standardized test, the ACAT. The SVCAA has agreed to fund the project. Other projects include collecting data from GS Math courses and from GS English Composition courses.

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

- a. Continued discussion (With Peek's permission, this item was moved to the end of the meeting agenda)

The discussion focused on whether there should be a Modern Languages requirement in General Studies. Peek asked the Council for a commitment to

the concept rather than a specific plan on how to do it. The extent of the specifics is GS will make room for 3 to 6 required hours of intermediate level or above language study, and adjusting everything/anything else as seems best. Peek indicated that the best place to make this commitment is in the General Studies program rather than within the Departmental programs. The discussion included the following: The practical value of such a requirement was questioned, especially for our typical students. The benefits of such a requirement extend beyond literacy in the specific language and include improved critical thinking and appreciation of a different culture. A 6 hour requirement is basically the same as the requirement for a BA degree. Such a requirement would certainly have an impact on the number of BA degrees UNK produces. The National Survey of Student Engagement indicated that UNK students are significantly lower than comparably students in foreign language coursework, international experiences, and exposure to diverse ethnic groups. Part of the problem may be the relatively weak preparation in modern languages that incoming UNK students possess. A three-hour requirement at the intermediate level may mean more than just 3 hours of coursework, especially if students are not prepared adequately. The need for a competency testing program in modern languages was discussed. Heckman suggested that UNL might be able to provide such test data on high school applicants to UNK. The issue of a name change for the General Studies Program was briefly discussed. The discussion will continue at the December meeting.

6. [Revised Capstone Proposal](#)

Wozniak presented a revised proposal for the capstone course objectives. Since the course could also be submitted and approved as a CD course, the requirement that the capstone course be CD was eliminated. The new objectives were revised to emphasize the interdisciplinary nature of the course and the increase from 1 hour to 1-3 hours. There were friendly amendments to change the wording to permit more clearly other methods. Lillis (Heckman) moved to approve then table the motion as per General Studies Council procedures. The motion will be formally addressed at the December meeting.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Request from Central Community College to allow them to approve courses as both WI and CD.

Wozniak distributed a letter from CCC requesting CCC be allowed to designate courses as both WI and CD. The course, according to their policy, will meet the same criteria for WI and CD as UNK WICD courses. The Council approved the request by consensus.

2. Proposed new General Studies course

a. **ENG 234, Reading and Writing about Literature**

Peek (Jenkins) moved to approve ENG 234 then table the motion as per General Studies Council procedures. There was some discussion concerning the number of non-majors who might enroll in the course and whether that would be a burden. Peek responded that it would not. The motion will be formally addressed at the December meeting.

3. **Changes in GS Political Science courses**

a. **Replace PSCI 100GS, Introduction to Political Science (deleted) change to:**

- i. **PSCI 140GS, Introduction to Comparative Politics**
- ii. **PSCI 170GS, Introduction to Political Thought**

4.

5. **Changes in GS Biology Courses**

- a. **Rename BIO 104GS, General Botany to BIO 104GS, Biology I**
- b. **Rename BIO 107GS, General Zoology to BIO 107GS, Biology II**

No actions were taken on items 3 and 4. These proposals had not yet been approved by the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs committee.

6. **Clarification General Studies Decision Making Authority**

Wozniak distributed a chart (attached) that describes the sequence of events for decisions in which the General Studies Council has a role. He was shown this model at an NEA conference on shared faculty governance. In most cases, the sequence of review/approval moves from left to right, with each unit's role defined in their corresponding cell. SVCAA Hadley has already reviewed it and is supportive. The question was raised if the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs committee needs to be represented on the chart. Wozniak said the committee can be included as a part of the Faculty Senate's role. The item was reviewed and accepted as an information item.

F. MISCELLANEOUS

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm. Peek moved for adjournment.

G. NEXT MEETING

The next GS Council meeting is scheduled for December 4, 3:30 pm, in 2122 Founders Hall.