

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY

GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL

Meeting of November 4, 2004 3:30 PM, 310 Nebraskan Student Union

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Faculty: Debbie Bridges, Peg Camp, Valerie Cisler, Randall Heckman, Sonja Kropp, Larry Kuskie, John Lillis, Marta Moorman, Marguerite Tassi, Vern Volpe, and Ed Walker

Ex officio/non-voting members: Kristi Milks, Tanis Saldivar, and Bill Wozniak

Students: Tom McCarty

Absent: Anne Drinkwalter, Jeanne Butler, Sandy Cook-Fong, Mary Daake, Glen Powell, Kim Schipporeit, Kenya Taylor

Wozniak called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. in Room 310 of the Nebraskan Student Union.

A. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2004.

Walker (Volpe) moved for approval of the minutes. It was noted that the revised minutes, which were circulated earlier in the week, were not revised in the first place. Wozniak acknowledged the error and promised to circulate the correct amended minutes. Kropp noted that the last two sentence on section C-7 were inaccurate and should be omitted. *The motion to approve the minutes as amended passed.* There was further discussion concerning the manner by which minutes are approved. In the future, Wozniak will distribute drafts of the minutes and collect corrections and additions. The final product will be reviewed and voted on at the actual meeting.

B. CD/WI COURSE SUBMISSIONS

1. Writing Intensive:

- a. ENG 411, Advanced Writing II (Kruse)
- b. PE 420, Methods in Health and Physical Education (Ed Scantling)
- c. BMGT 493, Social Responsibilities of Business: Issues and Ethics (Hayes)
Camp (Kuskie) moved for approval of the WI course submissions a-c.
The motion passed with one abstention.

2. Cultural Diversity:

- a. none

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. Notification of new CD course-instructor assignments

- a. none

5. General Studies Assessment Update

Wozniak said he is moving forward on the 9-point assessment plan for the General Studies Program. Work on the focus group discussions for each College (item #9) may involve the Council members soon. He will keep everyone posted.

6. Update on Proposal to move WI/CD course governance

Wozniak said the WI/CD proposal will be discussed at the Faculty Senate meeting this evening. The initial proposal from the General Studies prompted the Senate to request a clarification of the options for WI and CD governance from the executive committee. Faculty Senate President Bridges then presented a report to the Senate that included 3 governance options; (a) leave the governance as is--with the General Studies Council, (b) move the governance to a different existing committee, such as Academic Affairs or the appropriate College Committees, or (c) create a new committee. Heckman indicated the Math Department discussed the issue extensively and voted to formally support the present governance structure (WI and CD in General Studies.)

7. Liberal Studies at UNK

- a. Status of proposal concerning Fine Arts & Humanities courses

Cisler (Kuskie) moved the following proposal: "The College of Fine Arts and Humanities requests that the FAH General Studies Proposal of October 7, 2004, be distributed to and reviewed by members of the respective Educational Policy Committees and Deans of the four UNK campus colleges and that responses be submitted to the General Studies Council, in writing, by January 31, 2005, for distribution to its members for discussion at the February 3, 2005 General Studies Council meeting."

- b. Volpe presented another proposal that removed the statement "*Students may select courses from History or historically-based courses offered in the College of Fine Arts & Humanities.*" under the History Perspective. Kuskie and Cisler agreed to the friendly amendment that both proposals be forwarded to the Ed Policy Committees and the Deans. It was suggested that in sending the proposals the Director clearly state that the General Studies Council is seeking information from the campus but has not endorsed either proposal. [Both proposals](#) are attached to these minutes. *The motion passed with one abstention.*

E.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. none

G. MISCELLANEOUS

Lillis (Bridges) moved to adjourn. Motion passed at 4:56 pm.

H. NEXT MEETING

The next General Studies Council meeting is scheduled for December 2 at 3:30--310 Nebraskan Union.

Subcommittee meetings:

Assessment Monday, November 15 at 1:30 (2122 FDHL)

CD Tuesday, November 16 at 3:30 (2122 FDHL)

WI Thursday, November 18 at 2:30 (2122 FDHL)

Attachment: College of Fine Arts and Humanities:

[Proposal A: Proposal to Implement Recommendations of the 2001 Academic Program](#)

[Proposal B: Proposed General Studies Revision in Humanities, 11/04/04 Review, October 7, 2004](#)

Attachment: College of Fine Arts and Humanities:

Proposal A: College of Fine Arts and Humanities

Proposal to Implement Recommendations of the 2001 Academic Program Review

October 7, 2004

Background:

During the April 2004 meeting, the General Studies Council unanimously approved that recommendations and concerns of the 2001 General Studies Academic Review Report pertaining to the College of Fine Arts and Humanities would be referred to the college for discussion, and that suggested changes be presented to the Council during the 2004 October meeting.

Specific issues to be addressed are the following:

- Recommendation II.2: The University should make several immediate modifications to the General Studies Program that will enhance student learning: add foreign languages as a strand of the Humanities category.
- Structure of the GS Program - Issue III. 1: Why is philosophy the sole discipline within the Humanities category that students may avoid? Students are currently required to complete Humanities' coursework in literature, aesthetics and history-but not in philosophy. What are the justifications for marginalizing philosophy in this manner?
- Structure of the GS Program - Issue III.6: Why is the historical perspective considered part of the Humanities category when the Department of History is housed in the College of Natural and Social Sciences?
- Following an extensive study of the FAH offerings in the General Studies Program by GS representatives and members of the College Council, the group supports the following configuration (*italics represent proposed changes*):

A. English language (9 hours)

a. ENG 101

-Students with an ACT score of 30 or above do not have to take ENG 101. *They may take a Fine Arts or Humanities elective in its place.* (Rationale 1) -Students with a grade of B or above in ENG 101 may take a foreign language instead of ENG 102

b. ENG 102

c. SPCH 100

B. Fine Arts ~ Aesthetics (3-6 hours) (Rationale 2)

a. Art (0 - 6)

b. Dance (0 - 6)

c. Music (0 - 6)

d. Theatre (0 - 6)

C. Humanities (9 - 15 hours from at least three separate categories) (Rationale 3)

a. Literary perspectives (0 - 6)

b. *b. Foreign languages (0 - 6)*

-Students taking a beginning language other than the one they studied in high school may count a 5-hour introductory course and a 1-hour cultural component toward general

studies. Students taking intermediate level language may count up to two 3-hour courses toward general studies.

- c. Historical perspectives (0 - 6)
-Students may select courses from History or historically-based courses offered in the College of Fine Arts & Humanities.
- d. Philosophical perspectives (0 - 6)

Rationale:

5. (1) Since the implementation of placement strategies to assign composition courses effectively, students with an ACT score of 30 or above are able to substitute any course in the GS program as an elective. The suggested change guarantees that students maintain a minimum of hours in the Fine Arts or Humanities categories.

6. (2) The creation of a separate Fine Arts category allows for its four disciplines - Art, Dance, Music and Theatre - to be presented as a significant component of the College of Fine Arts & Humanities. The category receives emphasis in a manner similar to the division of the College of Natural and Social Sciences into three distinct categories: Category IV Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science 36 hrs; Category V Natural Sciences 7-15 hrs, and Category VI Social and Behavioral Sciences 9-15 hrs.

7. (3) As recommended by the APR report, significant proposed changes in Category III Humanities include the insertion of Foreign Languages as a strand as well as the elimination of specific requirements within the category. Students would be able to select the nine hours according to their interests or requirements for the major, with the only restriction being that a minimum of three sections would be covered.

Facilitating equal representation (0-6 hrs.) for four disciplines - Literature, Foreign languages, History and Philosophy - also addresses concerns by the APR which questioned why certain departments were favored for requirements while others marginalized. The suggested format change presents the Humanities category in a format parallel to Category V Natural Sciences and the proposed Category II Fine Arts.

The proposed format also accommodates the curious position of History (housed in the College of Natural and Social Sciences) in the Humanities category. Since it is reasonable for courses (regardless of the originating department) offered in the categories representing the College of Fine Arts and Humanities to conform to the purposes, guidelines, and methods of the "humanities," this understanding is the condition for accommodating courses from a department or departments outside the college.

Proposal B: Proposed General Studies Revision in Humanities, 11/04/04

Resolution: The Fine Arts and Humanities proposal includes a statement to the effect that "history-based" courses can be included in the History Perspective provided such courses are offered in the

College of Fine Arts and Humanities. This statement does not conform to the structure, style, or philosophy of the General Studies program as it currently exists and thus should be deleted.

Beyond this, the amended proposal deserves further study and comment from the appropriate College bodies. The proposal should be forwarded to the Colleges' Educational Policy Committees and Council of Chairs for specific recommendations.

During the February 3, 2005 General Studies Council meeting, college representative should be prepared to report on their College's recommendations to the following:

1. Does this College approve of the proposed changes to the Humanities curriculum? Are other changes to the proposal necessary?
2. How does this revision affect the remainder of the General Studies Program? How should the General Studies Council proceed in this regard?
3. Should changes be recommended, what should be the timeline for discussion, approval, and eventual implementation of the change? Which campus entities should be consulted

Revised proposal for Discussion

- A. English language (9 hours)
 - a. ENG 101
-Students with an ACT score of 30 or above do not have to take ENG 101. *They may take a Fine Arts or Humanities elective in its place.* (Rationale 1)-Students with a grade of B or above in ENG 101 may take a foreign language instead of ENG 102
 - b. ENG 102
 - c. SPCH 100
- B. *Fine Arts ~ Aesthetics* (3-6 hours) (Rationale 2)
 - a. Art (0 - 6)
 - b. Dance (0 - 6)
 - c. Music (0 - 6)
 - d. Theatre (0 - 6)
- C. Humanities (9 - 15 hours from at least three separate categories) (Rationale 3)
 - a. Literary perspectives (0 - 6)
 - b. Foreign languages (0 - 6)
-*Students taking a beginning language other than the one they studied in high school may count a 5-hour introductory course and a 1-hour cultural component toward general studies. Students taking intermediate level language may count up to two 3-hour courses toward general studies.*
 - c. Historical perspectives (0 - 6)

d. Philosophical perspectives (0 - 6)
