

**University of Nebraska at Kearney
General Studies Council
Minutes of the December 7, 2006 Meeting
Founders Hall, Warner Conference Room
Approved 2/1/07**

Present: Bethany Albrecht, John Anderson, Sylvia Asay, Mary Ann Barton, Debbie Bridges, Valerie Cisler, Karin Covalt, Mary Daake, Tommy Hansen, Laurence Hilton, Sonja Kropp, Larry Kuskie, Carol Lomicky, Marta Moorman, David Rozema, Kim Schipporeit, Daren Snider, Linda Spessard-Schueth, Vern Volpe

Absent: Kyle Bowers, Jeanne Butler

Guests: Sandy Cook-Fong, Daryl Kelley

I. Call to Order

Director of General Studies Daren Snider called the meeting to order on December 7 at 3:30 p.m. in Founders Hall 1000, Warner Conference Room.

II. Approval of Minutes of November 2, 2006 meeting.

After review of the minutes by the Council, Volpe/Kuskie moved to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2006 as presented. Approved.

III. Open issues

a. SOWK 170 Proposal

Snider reported that the Education Policy Committees of the four colleges have considered the issue of SOWK 170 moving from the Personal Development category of General Studies to the Social perspective of General Studies and have reported as follows: the educational policy committee of CBT approves; FAH voted that the course should be in both perspectives; NSS approves; COE neither approved nor disapproved the proposal.

Sandy Cook-Fong, Director of the Social Work Program, explained that the course is a better fit in the Social Perspective since it deals with poverty, race, criminal activity, and other questions about societies. The educational policy committee of NSS approved the change last April, and it has now been through the educational policy committees of the other colleges. Daryl Kelley, Director in Sociology, said the move in perspectives was not approved by the department chair, and argued that the focus of the course is professional rather than liberal arts based.

Volpe raised the procedural concern that the proposal should be discussed at the current meeting but not voted on until the next. Kuskie noted that all four colleges have given approval (or not raised objection), and the college in which the request originated approved it twice. Bridges requested to see the entire proposal packet so that the GSC could refamiliarize themselves with the complete issue. Kuskie/Volpe moved to table and vote on the proposal at the February meeting.

- b. Governance Document**
Changes to the proposed Governance Document that were suggested by the 11/14/06 work session of the GSC were considered. Volpe/Kuskie moved to send the draft document to the SVC for review. Approved.

IV. Reports

- a. GS Roundtables.**
Barton reported that the Faculty Senate Roundtables have been productive and estimates that about one half of a proposed program has been conceived in the meetings. Anderson said that questions are arising in the Roundtables that the GSC will need to address. These include specifics about the eventual proposed program, and about academic standards for GS courses.

- b. Liberal Arts curriculum.**
Rozema shared information about the history and philosophy of liberal arts programs in the U.S. Discussion ensued.

- c. General Studies Program assessment report for 2005-06.**
Snider reported that the assessment report is finished and includes 5½ pages and a 32 page appendix. Reports were submitted by all departments and programs with GS courses. The assessment report is now under review by the Office of Assessment. Snider will keep the GSC apprised of feedback about the report.

Anderson/Volpe moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next General Studies Council regular meeting will be Thursday, February 1, Warner Conference Room, FNDH 1000, at 3:30 p.m.