

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY
GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL
Meeting of March 4, 2004
MINUTES

PRESENT:

Faculty: Peg Camp, Valerie Cisler, Sandy Cook-Fong, Randall Heckman, Sonja Kropp, Larry Kuskie, John Lillis, Chuck Peek, Janet Steele, Ed Walker

Ex officio/non-voting members: Mary Daake, Glen Powell, Kim Schipporeit, Bill Wozniak

Guest: Tanis Saldivar (General Studies GA)

Absent: Jeanne Cutler, Allan Jenkins, Karen Malmkar, Marta Moorman, Alicia Spelts, Kenya Taylor,

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

A. MINUTES OF February 5, 2004 ALREADY APPROVED VIA E-MAIL

B. CD/WI COURSE SUBMISSIONS

a. Writing Intensive:

i. WSTD 220, Intro to Women's Studies (German)

The subcommittee was split on its recommendation concerning approval of this instructor, so the full Council was asked to address the request. Powell explained the need for the course and the need to have the instructor approved to teach the course as WI. Dr Wysocki was taking a Professional Development Leave next fall and neither she nor the other approved WI instructors could teach the course. The Women's Studies Program has some momentum, offering the course as WI would make it more attractive to those who need the WI hours and are considering the minor. On the other hand, it was not seem as necessary that this particular section be offered as WI. The discussion concerned whether the circumstances warranted an exception to the guidelines for the WI instructor status for Ms German. In general, the subcommittee looks for some peer-reviewed publication or for a thesis or dissertation. Even though the instructor seemed qualified to teach a WI course, following the guidelines were seen as necessary in order to be fair.

Peek (Kropp) moved for approval. Motion failed.

b. Cultural Diversity:

i. i. none

C.

D. OLD BUSINESS

a. WI Cleanup:

i. none

b. CD Cleanup:

- i. none**

c. Notification of new WI course-instructor assignments

- i. none**

d. General Studies Assessment Update

- i. Wozniak reported the outline of the assessment report that he will present at the next meeting. He had student outcome data from three departments, English, Math, and Chemistry. He hoped to receive data for Psychology before that meeting. Aside from those data, the report will include indirect assessment data from the National Survey of Student Engagement, the first-year program questionnaire (CESQ), and the Registrar's exit survey. Other data concerning the program offerings will include the WI and CD course and enrollment data and other data concerning enrollments and course offerings. He also reported that a complete written report should be available before the meeting and that only the highlights of the data will be presented in the meeting.**

e. Liberal Studies at UNK

- i. Continued discussion. There was extensive discussion concerning what actions should be taken as a result of the Modern Languages materials distributed and discussed at the last meeting. Even though specific recommendations were made in the report, Kropp said that she would not propose a motion until she saw what other proposals were being considered. She is opposed to each of us making our own proposals and then fighting it out. She preferred trying to balance each other's ideas/needs with some good will. Having specific recommendations on each agenda would allow all to hear how each other is thinking in general, what each of our bottom lines are in specific, and then we can launch proposals. Others reported that we have not addressed the specific recommendations from the Academic Program review and asked when we would address them. It was suggested that a list of the specific recommendation be presented to the Council with a schedule of when each recommendation would be addressed. Wozniak will comply.**

E.

F. NEW BUSINESS

- a. [Proposals from WI subcommittee](#) (initiated by the Council of Chairs)
 - i. Change item 4 in the guidelines for WI courses. Wozniak brought the suggestion concerning item 4 from the January meeting of the UNK Council of Chairs. In summary the proposal "loosens" the requirement that tests in WI courses consist primarily of essay questions to a recommendation that tests include essay question. The logic of the proposal is that professional writing "within the discipline" is usually not in the form of a response to an exam essay question.
Lillis (Steele) moved for approval. Motion passed.
 - ii. To include a general prerequisite for all WI courses of a "C" or better in ENG 102. There was extensive discussion of this issue. One side effect of the proposal is that it would effectively restrict WI courses to the sophomore year or beyond. Walker pointed out that this would be a problem for TE 100 and other programs that need to have WI courses taken early (such as some Allied Health programs.) Several questions were raised: How many students would be affected, i.e., how many get a C- or worse in ENG 102? How many 100-level WI classes are there? How many first year students are taking WI courses. Action on the proposal was postponed until some data can be reported.

G.

H. NEXT MEETING -- PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.

- a. The next General Studies Council meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2004 in 2122 Founders Hall.
- b. Other meetings:
 - i. WI subcommittee, March 25, 2:30
 - ii. CD subcommittee, March 23, 3:30
 - iii. Assessment subcommittee, March 22, 1:30