

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY
GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL
Meeting of April 8, 2004 Minutes**

PRESENT:

Faculty: Valerie Cisler, Sandy Cook-Fong, Randall Heckman, Allan Jenkins, Sonja Kropp, Larry Kuskie, John Lillis, Marta Moorman, Kenya Taylor, Ed Walker

Ex officio members: Glen Powell, Tanis Saldivar, Kim Schipporeit, and Bill Wozniak

Absent: Peg Camp, Mary Daake, Karen Malmkar, Kristi Milks, Chuck Peek, Alicia Spelts, Janet Steele

Wozniak called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the 2122 Founders Hall.

A. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2004

- a. The minutes of the March meeting were approved via e-mail.

B. CD/WI COURSE SUBMISSIONS

a. Writing Intensive:

- i. none

b. Cultural Diversity:

- 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** Wozniak distributed printed copies of the assessment reports for 2002-2002 and 2002-2003 academic years. The 2003-2004 academic year report is nearing completion, Wozniak apologized that it was not ready for this meeting, but opined that it may be better to present the student outcome data to the departments first. He indicated that the ENG 101 writing assessment went particularly well. He anticipated that the main lessons learned from this first round of student outcome data collection will be methodological.

e. **Proposals from WI subcommittee** (initiated by the Council of Chairs)

i. To include a general prerequisite for all WI courses of a "C" or better in ENG 102.

This item is postponed until Peek can be present and perhaps when other proposals that may come from the English Department Academic program review are under consideration.

f. **Liberal Studies at UNK**

i. **Schedule for addressing recommendations**

Wozniak distributed the [list of the recommendations](#) from the 2001 APR and asked the Council to discuss the schedule of when to address the items. The list is viewable at the end of these minutes. Kropp indicated that the Council should consider some real changes to the program so that the Council does not become ineffectual and then waste the time of the membership. Wozniak indicated that it was the responsibility of the members of the Council to determine the agenda and to put forth proposals. He has been receptive to additions to the agenda and would rather not dictate the agenda to the Council. He indicated displeasure that some of the Council members publicly (in the SVCAA interviews) indicating the Council has acted ineffectually. *Heckman (Taylor) moved to reject recommendation #9 that the University reconsider the name of the General Studies Program, i.e, we retain the name General Studies Program.* Kropp indicated that Peek's proposal included a name change to Liberal Studies. Heckman said that keeping the name of the current program does not prohibit a new name for a new program. *The motion passed (8-for, 2 against).*

Jenkins (Cisler) moved to accept recommendation #8 that the University emphasize the importance of advising in the General Studies Program. Wozniak said that the Council of Undergraduate Education has discussed advising in the context of summer and fall orientation as well as within the first-year experience courses. He is also putting a brochure together that provides information about the GS program to students and parents. Certainly the Director will work with the Director of Advising, the Registrar, and the Director of CTE on developing an action plan for this recommendation. Jenkins and Cisler agreed that this was included in the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Kropp (Cisler) moved to send the following recommendations to the College of Fine Arts and Humanities for review by a committee of representatives of all Fine Arts and Humanities departments so that discussion can occur and comments be forwarded to the General Studies Council by October, 2004: Recommendation 2-1, requiring students complete ENG 101 and 102 during the first two years; Recommendation 2-2, adding foreign language as a strand of the Humanities category; Recommendation 3-2, status of Philosophy in the Humanities category (i.e., not required); and Recommendation 3-6, status of History in the Humanities category (i.e., rather than in Social Sciences.) There was some clarification of the intent of the motion. It is hoped that these recommendations can be discussed along with some of the recommendations from the recent English Department Academic Program Review. The committee can then send their recommendations to the GSC by October. The motion passed unanimously.

E.

F. NEW BUSINESS

a. Proposal Concerning Governance of WI and CD Courses:

- i. Powell described a change in governance for which the time might be right. He suggested that the approval of WI and CD courses become the responsibility of the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee. He noted that at the last GSC meeting, the Council spent an inordinate amount of time discussing the application of one instructor for WI status, which left little time for discussing other matters concerning the structure of the program. He already presented the idea to the Academic Affairs committee and it was received well. One other idea that was offered was to have the appropriate College Committees do the review, however, there could be inconsistent application of WI and CD guidelines if 4 different committees were reviewing. The Council seemed generally receptive to the idea. *Cisler (Moorman) moved to move the governance of WI and CD courses to the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee. Action on the motion was postponed until the next meeting when there will be more time for discussion.*

G.

H. MISCELLANEOUS

I. NEXT MEETINGS:

- a. The next General Studies Council meeting will be May 6, 2004 at 3:30 p.m., in 2122 Founders Hall.

b. Subcommittee meetings

- i. WI subcommittee: April 29 at 2:30**
- ii. CD subcommittee: April 20 at 3:30**
- iii. Assessment subcommittee: April 19 at 1:30**

J.

K. ADJOURNMENT:

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.**