

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY
GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL
Meeting of February 3, 2005 MINUTES

PRESENT:

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

Student: Tom McCarty

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

Absent: Sandy Cook-Fong, Anne Drinkwalter (student)

Wozniak called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in room 310 of the Student Union.

A. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2004

1. *Bridges (Cisler) moved for approval of the minutes of the December meeting. Motion passed.*

B. CD/WI COURSE SUBMISSIONS

1. Writing Intensive

- i. **SOC 442: Sociology of Religion (Glazier)**
Lillis (Walker) moved for approval of SOC 442 as a WI course. Motion passed.

2. Cultural Diversity

- i. none

C.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. WI Cleanup:

- i. none

2. CD Cleanup:

- i. none

3. Notification of New WI Course-Instructor Assignments:

- i. **ENG 254: Intro Lit: Native American Literature (Bloomfield)**

4. Governance of WI and CD Courses

- i. **Barbara Emrys and Glenn Tracy (members of the WI/CD committee) have volunteered to sit in on WI subcommittee meeting to learn the process.**

E.

F. NEW BUSINESS

An extended discussion occurred about the GS Roundtables newly created and structured by the Faculty Senate President and the Director of General Studies. The following concerns were expressed, including:

- a. **the lack of any communication of the GS Director with members of the GS Council regarding the formation of the roundtables--the campus-wide e-mail announcements presented the GS forums as being "Faculty Senate, in conjunction with the General Studies Council . . ." without ever being presented to or discussed with the Faculty Senate or the General Studies Council. Members of the GS Council. Some expressed disappointment for the total disregard of the Council's expertise in matters so closely related to the GS Program;**
- b. **the apparent pre-empting of the GSC's authority in developing the objectives as stated in the GS Council Governance document (9.20.2002) II. Duties of the General Studies Council, J. "Regularly reviewing GSP structure and objectives." It was expressed that the new Roundtables appear to be set up to take on a fundamental duty of the GS Council;**
- c. **the unknown relationship of the Roundtables to present GSC activities, in particular to the development of the Fine Arts and Humanities and Department of History proposals;**
- d. **the rules for membership on the Roundtable group and why the GSC was not invited directly (and why Department Chairs were excluded?);**
- e. **the relationship of the Roundtables to the collection of assessment data on the current program and further, in relation to the current strategic planning process and the development of a new mission statement;**
- f. **the frustration of some of the GSC members in the lack of progress by the GSC toward addressing the 2001 APR recommendations.**

Bridges stated that an independent (independent of the GSC) discussion of the General Studies Program was called for by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee as a result of concerns stated by several faculty members while she was serving as Faculty Senate President. The intention was to begin a campus discussion that focused on student outcomes, not the more specific questions raised in the APR recommendations. Wozniak added he had acted on behalf of the GSC given that the SVC had agreed to the Roundtables in separate meetings with the Faculty Senate Executive. He reminded the GSC that SVC Murray had asked us to lead the discussion earlier in the fall. He admitted that

portions of the plan may be flawed and that he may have acted hastily, but that any plan would be flawed, and if the discussion is open, we can overcome those deficiencies.

G. MISCELLANEOUS

H. NEXT MEETINGS:

0. The next General Studies Council Meeting will be March 3, 2005, at 3:30 P.M. in the 310 Student Union.

1. Subcommittee meetings

a. WI subcommittee: February 24, 2005 at 2:30 P.M. in 2122 FH

b. CD subcommittee: February 15, 2005 at 3:30 P.M. in 2122 FH

c. Assessment subcommittee: February 14, 2005 at 1:30 P.M. in 2122 FH

I.

J. ADJOURNMENT

0. *Walker (Volpe) moved for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 P.M.*