

General Studies Council Minutes
December 2, 2010 Meeting – 3:30 p.m.
Founders Hall, Warner Conference Room
Approved via email 2/4/11

Present: Sylvia Asay, Debbie Bridges, Mary Daake, Kim Elliott, Katie Hall, Tommy Hansen, Ralph Hanson, Sherri Harms, Daryl Kelley, Sonja Kropp, Darleen Mitchell, Jan Moore, Marta Moorman, Daren Snider, Kim Schipporeit, Ken Trantham, Ron Wirtz, Ron Konecny

Absent: Jeanne Butler, Tommy Eshleman, Kristi Milks

Guests: Joan Blauwkamp, Sandy Cook-Fong, Tim Obermier, David Rozema, Vern Volpe, Maha Younes

I. Call to Order:

Director Daren Snider called the meeting to order and the council approved the agenda, with allowance to move through the items in a manner that accommodates guests.

II. New Business:

a. Course submissions

The following course was approved to send to campus for faculty input:

SOWK 170: Introduction to Social Welfare (democracy) – Moorman/Kropp moved, motion carried.

b. Discussion of Democracy category in GS

Blauwkamp and Volpe were present to discuss concerns with the democracy category. The Democracy in Perspective category learning objectives emphasize an understanding of democratic governance processes and citizens' involvement. Question whether it is appropriate for Democracy in Perspective category to include courses from any discipline. Point is that not all disciplines have expertise to teach about democracy.

Discussion surrounding the issue of disciplinary expertise and the intent of the democracy category and whether the emphasis is on teaching these courses with a more traditional focus on "democracy" or with more focus on democracy from the "perspective" of a variety of disciplines. Consensus is to take the broader approach that democracy can be considered from the perspective of the discipline offering the course.

III. Open Items: Course approvals

The following course was approved to send to the SVCASA for final approval:

ITEC 225: The Influence of Technology on Democracy (democracy) – Mitchell/Wirtz moved, motion carried.

IV. New Business:

a. Discussion of Capstone category in GS

A GS Capstone cannot be listed as a requirement for any major or minor. The GS Capstone is intended to be a unique General Studies experience approaching course content in a manner distinct from an upper division discipline course. If a department wants to convert an existing course into a capstone, the existing course cannot be offered. A department has to choose, one or the other, not both.

Recent PHIL submissions for capstone category are duplications of existing 300-level electives for the Philosophy major. Rozema was present to address the rule and explain that the PHIL courses are by nature cross-disciplinary and that the limited resources of the Philosophy department prevents them from being able to create a new capstone and continue to offer the courses their majors need. After discussion, Council consensus was to maintain the rule of no duplicated content between capstone courses and upper division courses.

b. Course submissions

No motion was made regarding the following proposed GS courses. The Council will leave the decision to revise and resubmit to the Philosophy department.

PHIL 388-01: Philosophy of Science (capstone)

PHIL 388-02: Philosophy of Mind (capstone)

PHIL 388-03: Aesthetics (capstone)

V. Other:

a. Portal Prerequisite

In order to prevent upperclassmen from registering for portal courses before new student enrollment, a registration control of "First Year Freshman standing only" was added to the portal courses last summer. However first year students who have transfer credit may have enough credits by spring registration to move to sophomore status; these students are not able to get into the portal courses.

Motion to add a permanent prerequisite to portal courses of "Freshman or sophomore standing."
Hansen/Moorman moved, motion carried.

VI. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 3, 2011, at 3:30 p.m., Warner Conference Room.