

General Studies Council Minutes
November 3, 2011 – 3:30 p.m.
Founders Hall, Warner Conference Room
***** Approved via email 11/28/11 *****

Present: Debbie Bridges, Joe Carlson, Mary Daake, Kim Elliott, Tommy Hansen, Ralph Hanson, Kate Heelan, Daryl Kelley, Ron Konecny, Martha Kruse, Allan Jenkins, Kristi Milks, Jan Moore, Kim Schipporeit, Daren Snider, Ken Trantham

Absent: Sylvia Asay, Jeanne Butler, Darleen Mitchell, Mike Sutherland

Guest: Scott Darveau

I. Call to Order:

a. Approve Agenda:

Director Snider called the meeting to order and the agenda was accepted without objection.

II. Open Items:

a. Oral Communication Assessment Proposed Rubric and Instrument:

Hanson/Trantham moved final approval of the rubric and instrument. Motion carried.

b. Philosophy Courses Proposed by General Studies (Rozema) – Discussion:

This issue was first addressed at the 10/6/11 General Studies Council meeting. After discussion at the present meeting, there was no motion to change the current guideline that a Capstone course cannot be also be an elective or required course in major or minor programs (see GSC minutes of 12/2/10).

A related discussion ensued as to whether students could be required to have completed specified courses in Distribution as a prerequisite to enrolling in a given Capstone course. A GSC subcommittee will study the issue and report to the Council at the December meeting. Subcommittee members are Ken Trantham, Debbie Bridges, and Ron Konecny.

III. New Business:

a. Request to Remove ENG 234 from the General Studies Program:

The English department requested that ENG 234 be removed from the GS program. Moore/Trantham moved. Motion carried.

b. Departmental Requests about GS and 120 Hours – Bridges:

UNK Academic Affairs Committee is asking the General Studies Council to provide guidance for evaluating program requests that would move courses required in major/minor programs into GS, where students would then be required by the major department to take those GS courses. It was pointed out that several departments already have “off loaded” such courses into General Studies. Due to pressure from the new 120-hour degree requirement, other such requests are currently before the Academic Affairs committee. After considerable discussion, the General Studies Council scheduled an extra meeting on November 10 to further consider the issue.

c. Faculty Senate Representative on the General Studies Council:

Snider reported that FS President Aaron Dimock expressed interest in behalf of the FS Executive Committee of having a permanent non-voting representative on the GSC from the FS, and wished to know the views of the Council. GSC members noted that this idea was originally proposed by the GSC to the FS, which rejected it (see FS Minutes of 4/29/10). Further, a change in Council membership

would require a change to the GSC Governance Document, a protracted process. Since all GSC meetings are open, a more immediate approach might be to give the Faculty Senate president access to the GSC blackboard group site and reiterate the open invitation to attend GSC meetings as desired. Snider will report Dimock's response to the GSC in December.

IV. Other:

VI. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, December 1, 2011, at 3:30 p.m., Warner Conference Room.