

Youngstown State University  
**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Meeting: February 14, 2012, 4:00 – 5:00 pm, Tod Hall

Present: Porter (chair), Bonhomme, O'Mansky, Tomhave, Garr, Crist, Beebe, Sturuss, Felix, Curnalia, Stringer

1. Minutes for the meeting of January 31<sup>st</sup> were approved
2. The Dana School of Music submitted the following four courses for inclusion in the Arts and Humanities Domain:

MUHL 3771, *Music History and Literature 1*

MUHL 3772, *Music History and Literature 2*

MUHL 3773, *Music History and Literature 3*

MUHL 3774, *Music History and Literature 4*

The courses had been included in the Art and Literary Perspectives domain in the 2000 General Education model; they had not been included in the Arts and Humanities domain in the 2012 model because the prerequisites for the courses effectively limited the course to music majors.

Crist noted that the music faculty had agreed to change the prerequisites to allow non-majors to take the courses if they had a score of 80% or more on the "Theory Diagnostic Examination." He also noted that the music faculty felt that non-majors without a background in music theory would not be successful in the course and that they felt the courses would be significantly less rigorous if they had to include coverage of music theory. Altering the content of the courses could also make it more difficult for the school's programs to retain their accreditation. Finally, he noted that if the courses were not approved for inclusion in the Arts and Humanities domain the music and education program would have to be advertised as a five-year program, which would have a detrimental effect on recruitment.

Members of the committee stated that the content of the courses clearly met the learning outcomes for the Arts and Humanities domain but were concerned because the courses were upper-division and designed solely for music majors. Some members of the committee expressed concern that this was a step backwards from some of the changes that were made in the conversion to the new model. However, members of the committee also indicated that they did not want to see the accreditation of the program jeopardized or have it classified as a five-year program.

The committee then discussed different ways of accommodating special cases where accreditation is an issue but limit the number of upper-division courses included in the general education model. Porter noted that there are currently nine upper-division courses that could be used towards the general education requirements. Bonhomme suggested that the upper-division courses currently in the model be allowed to remain under a "grandfather" exception but no additional upper-division courses be added. O'Mansky suggested excluding upper-division courses with exceptions for cases where excluding the courses would affect accreditation.

The committee approved the music courses and agreed to discuss the issue of upper division courses further in a later meeting.

3. The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies submitted REL 2610/PHIL 2610, *Global Ethics*, for inclusion in the Arts and Humanities domain. The committee approved the course.
4. The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies submitted PHIL 2619, *Introduction to Logic*, as an option for the General Education mathematics requirement. Porter noted that a number of state universities in Ohio include a course in logic as an option for the mathematics requirement. The faculty of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics discussed the proposal and voted to support it. The committee approved the course.

Addendum:

Porter sent the following message to the committee via e-mail after the meeting:

Hi,

There was one informational item I forgot to mention at yesterday's meeting; the follow-up on the "independent lab" issue. A meeting of the science chairs and the dean was scheduled to discuss the issue and the consensus was an independent lab was not a good idea and there should be no change in wording of the general education requirements (Biology was not represented at the meeting). Since the committee's support for the "independent" lab was contingent on the approval of the science chairs the proposal no longer has the committee's support. Biology or members of the committee can request additional discussion of the issue if they want to try to revive the proposal.

Take care,

Tod

Submitted by Tod Porter