**General Education Committee Meeting Minutes 3/27/2012**

**Present**: Porter, Tomhave, Curnalia, Lowry, Beebe, O'Mansky, Rowlands, Reday, Ball, Stringer

Meeting began at 3:30pm

I. New General Education Coordinator
    A.  Dr. Khawaja solicited committee feedback about the selection of the new Gen Ed Coordinator. Members of the committee said that they felt it was important that the coordinator be even-tempered and that the most important job of the coordinator in the upcoming year was to work on the assessment of general education
    B.  Candidates are,
        1.     Joseph Palardy, Economics
        2.     Rick Gaydos, Computer Science and Information Systems
        3.     John Sarkissian, Foreign Languages

II.     Old minutes - approved.

III.     Upper-Division Courses in Gen Ed
    A.  A list of upper-division courses included in the general education model that are required by accredited programs was distributed
    B.  Possible Solutions
        1.     Work on courses on a case-by-case basis in Gen Ed Committee.
        2.     Cap courses that would count as double-dippers; courses that can be used to meet Gen Ed requirements and in count towards the major (based on prefix: ENGL, GERO, etc.).
            a)  Without restrictions, a very large share of the course requirements could be met by taking courses in a single department
            b)  How do we define "major", is it by department code (so, all PSYC, PHIL, etc.) or courses in major, which may vary in department code?
        3.     Upper division courses OK if pre-reqs are also in Gen Ed.
    C.  Discussion
        1.     More class variety makes assessment more difficult
        2.     The committee could revisit the issue of whether to only include introductory courses in general education (Introductory courses do not presuppose prior knowledge about field)
        3.     Hold off until Domain Committees finish meeting to help define LO criteria?
        4.     Problems with course limitations or exceptions—seems arbitrary.
        5.     Questioned whether choosing 3700 level as a cutoff point is arbitrary and that the exceptions didn't seem appropriate

    D.  Summary of Next Steps:
        1. We do nothing/ wait for feedback from Domain Committees.

2. Take current proposal to Senate (with modified language, see below).
3. Develop a cap based on department/program (So, no more than 2 courses can count for Gen Ed from the same dept./program).

   * O'Mansky calls for straw-poll vote: Do we proceed and peruse limitation of upper-division courses OR do we proceed and develop language for caps based on department or programs?
   o    Results show most of the committee is OK with policy as written but acknowledge some changes must be made.
   o    Several members also interested in developing cap system.

   * Stringer recommends not sending this through Senate at this point.

   * If we postpone, we must make decision by May Senate meeting.
   * We need advisors' feedback on cap system.
   * Current language is elitist—why only accreditation concerns; what about other programs and their concerns?
   * Members write language for cap option.
   * Dr. Porter will talk to the advisors.

IV.     Committee approved ENGL 2605, Journalism as Literature, for inclusion in the Arts and Humanities domain
V. The committee was encouraged to attend the following events:
   A.     Presentations on advising by Charlie Nutt, April 10th
   B.     Appreciation Ceremony, April 17th


Meeting ended at: 5:02pm
Minutes submitted by: Sarah J. Lowry



Appendix:

Original : "One purpose of the General Education Requirements is to ensure that students are exposed to a diverse range of disciplines. Therefore, in general, upper-division courses will not count towards the general education requirements. However, the committee is cognizant that exceptions will need to be made due to accreditation requirements and situations in which the number of hours required for a program become excessive."

Revised: "One purpose of the General Education Requirements is to ensure that students are exposed to a diverse range of disciplines. Therefore, in general, upper-division courses will not count towards the general education requirements. However, the committee is cognizant that exceptions *may* need to be made *in some cases. For*

*example* due to accreditation requirements and situations in which the number of hours required for a program become excessive *or other extraordinary circumstances.*"