

GEC Minutes: November 24, 2009

Present: Chen, O'Mansky, Gergits, Bonhomme, Miller, Stringer, Baran, Lowry

Absent: Horvath, McManus, Crist, Mullins, Armstrong, Ritchey, Munro, Koneval,

Visitor: Hillary Fuhrman, Assistant Director, Assessment Office



- University College: As of this GEC meeting, general education had been put in and then taken out of the UC at least three times. The day before this meeting, general education had been removed by the deans' council, who found its inclusion troublesome. They argued that general education covers the entire campus and includes courses from all the academic colleges, which is true. As the program has developed, it's picked up courses from every college on campus except the graduate school. They also objected to putting the Honors Program into the UC.

The deans argued that such broad-based programs should be left independent.

- Sharon and Julia met with Chet Cooper and Bob Hogue to discuss how best to present GER changes to the Academic Senate, beginning with possible changes to the intensives requirement. The last time that substantial GER changes were proposed, acrimonious, prolonged fights erupted. If we can avoid animosity, it would at the least save us time.

Bob and Chet thought that the GEC's idea for revising the intensives would be popular. They didn't think that anyone would protest this kind of change since it addresses the learning outcomes without making our colleagues do additional work.

- The GEC discussed changing how we manage the LOs related to critical thinking, writing, and speaking, and Gergits provided a draft proposal.

See attached proposal. It was submitted to the GEC; it's also on a PowerPoint that we used (and will use) for discussion. Gergits suggests that we eliminate the requirement that every student take two writing intensive, two critical-thinking intensive, and one oral-intensive course; we'd maintain the capstones, which require that writing, thinking, and speaking be included and evaluated. The LOs would remain; the departments would determine how best to achieve professional levels of thinking, speaking, and writing. Brian suggested some clarifying language, but we focused on the overall issue of intensive course requirements.

We decided to bring this proposal back at the longer GEC meeting scheduled during finals week. At that meeting, we hope to get to a formal motion so the proposal can go to the senate at the February meeting.

- We will have a two-hour meeting in finals week (scheduled for December 8 right now—is that workable?).
- Please, please send Julia your spring schedules so she can set up our meetings for spring semester.