

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Education Committee

December 2nd, 2011

Present: Ball, Bonhomme, O'Mansky, Lowry (student), Beebe, Crist, Curnalia, Stringer, Felix, Sturuss, Porter (chair), Shah-Rowlands.

Stand-Alone Biology Lab

Gary Walker (Biology Chair) presented a case in favor of a stand-alone biology lab. Stressed lab's emphasis on teaching the scientific method as well as the increased flexibility a stand-alone would allow for student scheduling. Committee concerned that current wording of Gen Ed curriculum seems to link labs to specific lectures. Language change may thus be required, which may require an action by Senate. Discussion ensued. Feedback to be solicited from other science departments. No other action taken.

Study-Abroad General Education Credit

Under "Policy and Procedures for Study Abroad General Education Credit" chair proposed following new wording of point #2: "While residing outside the United States". Change approved unanimously. Suggestion also to edit out from point #1 on same sheet the following words: "approximately 15 weeks." Change approved.

Undergraduate Bulletin Text

Question raised what to do with incoming students already in possession of a BA, looking for a second one from us. Do they still need to complete YSU's General Education curriculum if their current degree lacks transferable equivalent? What if the first degree is from a non-accredited program? Discussion followed. Porter proposed the following altered wording (*in italics*) under "General Education and Transfer Students: "Students coming from another university or from YSU with a completed bachelor's degree (*from a regionally accredited institution in the United States*) do not have to complete any general education requirements at YSU." Crist moved to accept, Stringer seconded. Committee approved.

Assessment Strategies

Chair suggested and committee agreed that department chairs be charged with finding volunteers for exploratory committees designed to establish frameworks and parameters for assessing learning outcomes. These committees might offer suggestions about how courses can meet these outcomes. These committees, Chair suggested, might eventually morph into more permanent "learning communities" for Gen Ed assessment.

Stringer noted that Susan Hatfield has suggested possible longer reporting cycles for Gen Ed assessment, perhaps only three learning outcomes per year.

General Education Pamphlet

Lowry showed current draft. Advertised it as a way to “sell the idea of Gen Ed, and also to answer specific common questions students may have.” She suggested also a companion “advisor’s card” showing differences between old and new Gen Ed models, as an easy reference for advisors and faculty. Committee thanked Lowry for her work on the pamphlet. Chair noted that Jean Engels should be consulted before pamphlet is finalized.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55.

Respectfully submitted

Brian Bonhomme