

General Education Committee
March 28, 2013
10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Mason Hall, D1

Attending: Janette Muir (Chair), Dominique Banville, Kim Eby, Becky Ericson, Doug Eyman, Marcy Glover, Stephanie Hazel, Mack Holt, Frank Allen Philpot, Hugh Sockett, Mark Uhen, Carol Urban, Peter Winant, Aaron Yohai

Out: Rick Diecchio, Kelly Dunne, Cliff Sutton

Proposal for Review

NUTR 295 – NATURAL SCIENCE, NON LAB – APPROVED

This is the third submission of this course, following feedback from the committee. The subcommittee supports approving this course. There was discussion about the course, which was similar to previous discussions in that it covered the application of science versus hard science. The course has other science prerequisites, which answered some concerns. The issue was raised that the authors had done what the committee had asked them to do, however, we keep rejecting the course. Can this course be revised to meet the committee's specifications or does it need to be rejected. Stephanie recommended that the course be evaluated in the fall with the other Natural Science courses. If it failed the course would be removed. The final vote was 10 yes, 3 opposed. The course was approved without condition, but the faculty member will be asked to participate in the assessment to address the concerns of those opposed.

Natural Science learning outcomes – revision and discussion – TABLED

Rick Diecchio recommended the addition of language to one line in the learning outcomes. After intensive discussion and a review of the National Academy of Sciences definition of "What Science Is," it was decided that it was prudent to wait until after the assessment of the category in fall 2013 before any changes are made. To make revisions at this point could lead to unintended consequences (confusion). This matter is tabled pending the completion of the assessment (spring 2014 projection).

Global Understanding learning outcomes – revision and discussion – APPROVED

This has proven to be a very difficult category to assess and, of all the categories assessed to date, the one with the most areas of concern. After discussion of the learning outcomes provided by Hugh, they were approved. It was asked that the subcommittee create a preamble to the learning outcomes to make them consistent with other categories – this is under discussion as to whether or not it is necessary.

Summer Retreat

Due to the success of last year's retreat (the creation of overall learning outcomes for the General Education program), Janette queried the group if they would like to meet again this summer. The consensus was yes. One topic of possible discussion is funding models for gen ed. Janette said that issue was actually the topic of one of the strategic planning groups and more information would be available later in the year. Another topic suggested was the lack of writing in many courses – is it really acceptable to have a course that the only evaluation tool is multiple choice tests? At the national level, issues of concern currently are: degree completion, testing out of requirements, competency based learning, on-line (distance learning) and the value added of face to face instruction. Another topic might be synthesis – what is it?