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University of Nebraska at Kearney General Studies Council

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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY
GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL
Meeting of March 3, 2005
MINUTES

PRESENT:

Faculty: Peg Camp, Valerie Cisler, Randall Heckman, Sonja Kropp, John Lillis, Marta Moorman, Marguerite Tassi, Kenya Taylor, Ed Walker

Student: Tom McCarty

Ex officio members: Glen Powell, Kristi Milks, and Bill Wozniak

Absent: Deb Bridges, Sandy Cook-Fong, Anne Drinkwalter (student), Larry Kuskie, Vern Volpe

Wozniak called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M. in room 310 of the Student Union.

- A. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3 AND FEBRUARY 15, 2005. Wozniak had distributed corrections to the February 3, 2005 minutes in an e-mail. *Lillis (Cisler) moved for approval of the minutes as corrected. Motion carried. Cisler (Walker) moved for approval of the minutes of February 15, 2005. Motion carried.*

B. CD/WI COURSE SUBMISSIONS

1. Writing Intensive:

- a. GERM 354, Survey of German Literature (Snider)
- b. PSCI 377, Topics in Political Thought - Feminist Political Thought (Blauwkamp)
- c. TE 431, Medical Aspects in Special Education (Mollenkopf)
- d. HIST 210H, Western Civilization to 1700 (Rieder)
- e. BMKT 440, Advertising Management (Leung)
- f. ENG 251, American Literature (Lines)
- g. JMC 305, Feature Writing for Magazines, Newspapers, Newsletters (Merrick)

The WI subcommittee recommended approval of GERM 354 and ENG 251, but requested further information on the remainder of the proposals. Wozniak said he had received clarifications from the Blauwkamp, Mollenkopf, and Rieder concerning their syllabi, but did not fully understand how the syllabi for BMKT 440 and JMC 305 met the WI guidelines. He will ask those instructors to attend the next WI subcommittee meeting to explain. *Heckman (Walker) moved for approval of proposals a - d and proposal f. Motion carried.*

2. Cultural Diversity:

- a. none

C.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. WI Cleanup:

- a. none

2. CD Cleanup:

- a. none

3. Notification of new WI course-instructor assignments

- a. PHIL 120 (Don Welch)

4. Notification of new CD course-instructor assignments:

- a. none

5. General Studies Council Restructuring

a. Schedule of meetings

In order to accommodate the planned schedule, Moorman agreed to stay on the WI (Outreach) subcommittee. The rest of the committee thought that the following schedule was doable:

Subcommittee

Assessment: Monday, March 21 and April 18 at 1:30 pm, 2122 FDHL

(Outreach) WI: Thursday, Mar 31 and April 28 at 2:30 pm, 2122 FDHL

(Planning) CD: Tuesday, Mar 22 and April 19 at 3:30 pm, 2122 FDHL

6.

7. Assessment Subcommittee report

Wozniak reviewed the assessment activities for the remainder of the semester.

8. Planning Subcommittee report

The planning subcommittee reviewed the NSSE questionnaire and the data and discussed items that were most relevant for General Studies. The list of items is [linked](#).

9. Outreach Subcommittee report

The training of the new WI committee members continues. There will be some discussion of how to accurately portray the purposes of the General Studies Program to our various constituencies.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Governance Issues:

A. Powell informed the Council of Wozniak's resignation as the Director of General Studies. The members of the Council discussed the job description and believe the Director's position with its current .50 FTE reassigned time allocation is quite unattractive. Although the writing intensive and cultural diversity initiatives are being examined by an ad hoc committee for potential reassignment, the work load reduction will more than be made up by the assessment requirements. Their suggestion was the Director should have a .75 FTE assignment (if not even a 1.0 FTE) if the Director is to be responsible for interacting with the various constituencies in a proactive manner as well as supervising and monitoring GS assessment. Powell agreed to present the recommendation to the Senior Vice Chancellor.

B. Council members requested the Fine Arts and History proposals be placed on the agenda for a formal vote at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

F.

F. MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SPRING SEMESTER

Subcommittee

Assessment: Monday, March 21 and April 18 at 1:30 pm, 2122 FDHL

(Outreach) WI: Thursday, Mar 31 and April 28 at 2:30 pm, 2122 FDHL

(Planning) CD: Tuesday, Mar 22 and April 19 at 3:30 pm, 2122 FDHL

G. The next General Studies Council meetings are scheduled for April 7 and April 28, 2005 at 3:30-310 Nebraskan Union.

Attachment: [NSSE items most relevant for General Studies](#)

The entire meeting was devoted to a review of the NSSE questions. There was agreement that items should be selected that applied most clearly to the General Studies Program, rather than to a student's UNK education in general. So items were omitted from the list that applied equally to the major and minor, or applied to the institution as a whole.

The following items were selected as most relevant to General Studies.

1. Academic and Intellectual Experiences

- a. Asked questions in class (VC)
- b. Made a class presentation
- c. Prepared 2 or more drafts of a paper
- d. Worked on a project that required integration of different ideas
- e. Included diverse perspectives in class discussions
- i. Put together ideas from different courses
- k. Participated in a community-based project as part of a course
- n. Discussed grades or assignments with instructor (VC)
- o. Talked about career plans (VC)
- p. Discussed ideas with faculty members outside of class
- q. Prompt feedback (VC)
- s. Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework
- t. Discussed ideas with others (VC)
- u. Had serious conversation with students of a different race or ethnicity

2. Mental Activities

- b. Analyzing
- c. Synthesizing
- d. Making judgments
- e. Applying

3. Examinations

- Challenge of exams

2. Reading and writing

- . Number of assigned textbooks (VC)

3. Problem sets

- none
4. Additional Collegiate Experiences
 - . Attended an art exhibit/performance (VC)
 5. Enriching Educational Experiences
 - . Practicum (VC)
 - a. Community service
 - b. Learning Community
 - c. Work on a research project outside of a course (VC)
 - d. Foreign language coursework
 - e. Study abroad
 - f. Independent study (VC)
 - g. Senior experience -capstone (VC)
 6. Quality of Relationships
 - Relationships with faculty members
 7. Time Usage
 - a. Preparing for class (VC)
 - d. Participating in Co-curricular activities (VC)
 2. Institutional Environment
 - d. Time studying (VC)
 - e. Academic support (VC)
 - f. Encouraging contact among diverse students (VC)
 - g. Providing social support (VC)
 - h. Attending campus events (VC)
 3. Educational and Personal Growth
 - . Acquiring a broad general education
 - a. Acquiring work-related knowledge
 - b. Writing clearly and effectively
 - c. Speaking Clearly and effectively
 - d. Thinking critically and analytically

- e. Analyzing quantitative problems
 - h. Working effectively with others (VC)
 - i. Voting in elections
 - j. Learning effectively on your own
 - k. Understanding yourself
 - l. Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds
 - m. solving complex real-world problems
 - n. Developing a personal code of values and ethics
 - o. Contributing to the welfare of your community
 - p. Developing a deepened sense of spirituality

The discussion also included the benchmark studies. The most critical benchmark study for UNK General Studies was the one entitled "Enriching Educational Experiences."