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General Education Council

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### February 2004 General Studies Council Minutes

University of Nebraska at Kearney General Studies Council

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**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY  
GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL  
Meeting of February 5, 2004  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

**Faculty:** Peg Camp, Valerie Cisler, Sandy Cook-Fong, Randall Heckman, Allan Jenkins, Sonja Kropp, Larry Kuskie, John Lillis, Marta Moorman, Chuck Peek

**Ex officio/non-voting members:** Mary Daake, Glen Powell, Kim Schipporeit, Bill Wozniak

**Guest:** Tanis Saldivar (General Studies GA)

**Absent:** Jeanne Cutler, Karen Malmkar, Alicia Spelts, Janet Steele, Kenya Taylor, Ed Walker

Wozniak called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

**A. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2003 ALREADY APPROVED VIA E-MAIL**

**B. CD/WI COURSE SUBMISSIONS**

**1. Writing Intensive:**

- i. none

**2. Cultural Diversity:**

- i. none

**C.**

**D. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. WI Cleanup:**

- i. none

**2. CD Cleanup:**

- i. none

**3. Notification of new WI course-instructor assignments**

- i. ITEC 391, Aviation Law (Stephen Amundson)

Wozniak described the circumstances of this assignment. There was a wholesale renumbering and re-prefixing of the Aviation courses from BASM to ITEC. Since this occasionally happens as departments evolve, the Council was asked if any other review or approval was needed other than that of the



Director of General Studies. There was no objection to the Director handling those cases, then informing the Council.

4. General Studies Assessment Update:

Wozniak would like to reserve most of the next meeting agenda for a presentation of the assessment data collected this academic year. His intention is develop an assessment annual schedule including data collection in the fall semester and data analysis, data review, and strategic planning in the spring. The March or April meeting would include a review of the data, and the May meeting could include program planning, program development, and assessment of the procedures used to collect data. To continue the process, a number of departments are being considered for the next round of student outcome assessment next fall. Wozniak will contact the Chairs of these departments and ask for their cooperation.

5. [Capstone Proposal](#) (second reading, attached)

Wozniak described an addition to the proposal-the last paragraph under "Rationale." The proposal was amended to include an assessment component that would be included in the design of the course and that would assist in the assessment of the General Studies Program as a whole. *Lillis (Cisler) moved for approval of the changes to the objectives and the catalog description of the category. Motion passed.* There was extensive discussion concerning the rationale and the likelihood of success of such courses. Given the importance of student head count (SCH) in driving budget decisions, it is clear that there is little incentive for a department to develop a team-taught course. It is not clear how to handle the generated SCH for such a course nor how such a course would be handled with regard to faculty workload, especially if the course is team-taught by faculty from different Colleges. Other problems would include how such a course would be listed in the schedule. Schipporeit suggested there needs to be some answers to these questions before faculty will develop such courses. Wozniak indicated the answers are not within the General Studies Council purview, but under the control of the Deans and the Departments. Peek suggested that the Director (and any volunteers from the Council-so far Larry Kuskie and Chuck Peek) meet with the Deans to see how some of these problems can be solved. *Peek (Jenkins) moved for approval of the amended rationale. Motion passed.* The amended proposal is attached.

6. Liberal Studies at UNK

a. [Proposal from Modern Languages](#)

Kropp reviewed her document concerning Modern Languages. Modern Languages is asking the Council to put foreign language study more within the mainstream of the GS program-- based on a suggestion in the Academic Program Review Report, the NSSE data, as well as the recognized need to prepare students to function in a global environment. The report also points out the difficulty to do so within the existing General Studies program. There was a consensus admitting to the need to emphasize foreign language more and admitting to the practical problems in doing so. The discussion will be continued at future meetings, in the context of other recommendations from the APR.



**b. Summary of Recommendations from 2001 General Studies Academic Program Review  
(materials attached)**

Wozniak presented a document that depicts how the UNK General Studies Program would look if all of the APR recommendations were implemented. He suggested that the document be used as a guide for any upcoming proposals concerning changes.

**E.**

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Wozniak said that he had submitted a proposal requesting support for General Studies program under a priority program initiative run by the Library. The GS program have been approved to receive funding for \$2000 in books written by award-winning authors (e.g., LA Times Book Prizes) and for other titles supporting General Studies courses. John Lillis has prepared a book list, which was reviewed by the Council.

**G. MISCELLANEOUS**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

**H. NEXT MEETING**

The next General Studies Council meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2004 in 2122 Founders Hall.