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December 1999 General Studies Council Minutes

University of Nebraska at Kearney General Studies Council

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GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting: December 2, 1999

PRESENT: Dave Anderson, Charlie Bicak, Peg Camp, Don Envick, Dick Jussel, Sonja Kropp, Carol Lilly, Clint Ludeman, Kim Schipporeit, and Marguerite Tassi

ABSENT: Nelson Cartwright, John Lillis

VISITORS: Stan Dart

Interim Chair, Dick Jussel, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., in the Academic Affairs Conference Room.

A. The November 4, 1999 minutes were approved.*Peg Camp (Ludeman) moved to approve the November 4, 1999 minutes. Motion carried.**

B. CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND WRITING INTENSIVE SUBMISSIONS:Jussel recommended the following courses be approved by the Council:

1. CD:

- **FCSC 308 - Housing and Family (Inherently CD)**

*****Charlie Bicak (Ludeman) moved to approve the above course pending modification of the course description. Motion carried.**

- **PE 302 - Sports in Society (N. Unruh)**

*****Clint Ludeman (Bicak) moved to approve the above course. Motion carried.**

2. WI:

- **FCSC 308 - Housing and Family (R. Glotzer)**

*****Charlie Bicak (Tassi) moved to approve the above course. Motion carried.**

C.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Geography Proposals:

*****Carol Lilly (Bicak) moved to approve the Geography proposals as presented in the previous two General Studies meetings. Motion carried.**

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. General Studies Capstone Course Proposal:

Jeanne Cutler presented the following Capstone Course Proposal to the Council, asking for permission to seek a grant to support the proposal.

(Draft)

General Studies Capstone Course ProposalSince its beginning, the present General Studies program

has included an undeveloped capstone course. This writing intensive, interdisciplinary course would consist of a student's writing a single revised paper that draws together material from multiple perspectives to solve a problem proposed by the faculty in the student's major discipline. It would be an independent learning project carried out entirely on-line, using CourseInfo and email, and be open to any registered student who has successfully completed General Studies in at least three perspectives and declared a major. This proposal is an attempt to develop a pilot capstone course in a way that would facilitate acquiring grant money to help establish the pilot course and test it over a three year interval.

Objective:

- provide a means to integrate learning from several GS perspectives to solve a problem in the student's major academic area and confirm his or her Liberal Education experience.
- provide a means for transfer students to use their GS classes being transferred to UNK and earn UNK credit using a web based format. (It would be open to students at other institutions having articulation agreements with UNK for the General Studies courses taken.)
- provide easy access for a wide range of students, whether on the UNK campus or not
- provide a means of assessing student learning in the GS program that would provide information to improve the General Studies program, and satisfy North Central* assessment requirements

Method: Appoint a coordinator for the capstone course, who would update CourseInfo, interface between the students and faculty, and keep students on deadlines. (.5 FTE, maybe a graduate assistant)

Identify faculty who would serve as evaluators for a stipend, maybe graduate assistants.

Representatives from all colleges draw up a list of problems for the semester to be addressed by students choosing the GS capstone course.

Registered students find the topic from their area on the web, write an abstract of their solution identifying the GS courses that they had taken and the material from those courses being used to address the problem, and submit it in email to the coordinator.

The coordinator would send the proposal to the appropriate faculty member who would reply with comments to the student. The student would work closely with the faculty member using email to produce a paper clearly presenting his/her ideas documented with material from the GS courses already taken, not new research.

Using the resources of CourseInfo, students would read each others papers and collaborate in the writing process.

A team of faculty members would evaluate all papers, assigning a grade for the student and supplying evaluation to the General Studies Council to be used to upgrade the General Studies program.

Develop a set of guidelines regarding the mechanics of student/evaluator interaction (timelines for responding to email, timeline for writing the paper, documentation to be used, length of paper, etc.)

Student Credit Hour production for this course would go to the major department.

Financial requirements: Salary for coordinator who would update CourseInfo, interface between the students and faculty, and keep students on deadlines.

Stipends for faculty.

Computer setup for coordinator.

Operating expenses.

***In the lack of a negative vote, the grant proposal will move ahead.

2. General Studies Program Review:

Jussel informed the Council that Dr. Roark has asked for a Program Review for the General Studies Council. Jussel stated that Charlie Bicak has agreed to chair the review process and in February/March an outside reviewer will be selected. Over the summer months a survey will be sent out and the review will be in September or October of 2000.

F. MISCELLANEOUS:

***The meeting was adjourned at 4:45.

G. NEXT MEETING:

The next General Studies meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2000, at 3:30 p.m., in the Academic Affairs Conference Room, Founders Hall, Room 2122.