

General Education & Diversity Committee
October 2, 2009
Approved Minutes

Present: Steven Gilbert, Patricia Hoffman, Brian Martensen, Buddhadev Roychoudhury

The meeting began at 8:09 am.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 4th and 11th meetings were approved.

Course Proposals: There are currently no proposals in the CDS for us. Brian will meet with the CDS Workgroup this afternoon. We will ask when to expect proposals and also if the CDS system can filter courses by Gold/Purple/Gen. Ed.

Course Substitution requests: At an earlier meeting it was decided that some deadlines should be in place for course substitution requests in order to be considered that semester. A deadline already exists (one month before graduation) on the form, but it was suggested that perhaps this deadline could be better advertised on the website. Also, the language suggesting it need to occur one month before graduation should be perhaps changed (since some requests may be for non-graduating student attempting to register for future classes). The committee agreed that the language on the form (and website) should read:

In order to be considered during the current semester, students must submit this appeal one month prior to the last day of the semester. Any appeal submitted after this deadline will be considered during the following semester. Appeals are not considered during the summer.

General Education Assessment: Steve attended the last Executive Committee meeting of the IFO, where the suggestion to revise the GECCEIG process was on the agenda. This item had been on the agenda for last April's meeting, but the quorum at the meeting was lost just as it was brought up for discussion. It was discussed informally at that time.

Some concern was shown in the meeting, however this may be to some misunderstandings regarding our request. The issue is not with what the current guidelines indicate should happen in the assessment process, but rather with the extent to which certain procedures are happening and are feasible. In particular, reports languish in a file without implementation or having been read by those departments participating. This leads to a lack of interest in participation. Secondly, the actual methodology (as recently implemented) does not follow the guidelines and raises some concerns about the validity of sampling and what sorts of questions (essay vs. multiple choice) should be analyzed. Brian agreed to write a document summarizing some issues with sampling that have been of some concern. Our recommendation is not to simply revise the current GECCEIG process, but replace it. Our suggestion that assessment be folded into program review was not well received. We would be

interested in understanding why. We will invite Jackie Lewis to a meeting and perhaps she can give some insight and suggestions. Eventually, Lynn Akey should be involved, but she is on sabbatical for the time being. She may be in town and we should perhaps email her.

Whatever changes occur, the emphasis should be on faculty governance and not be one size fits all. We want the report to be of high value to the departments that participate. As such, faculty should be involved in the solution and the process should not simply be handed over to the administration. However, if the administration wants a strong product, an investment needs to be made.

Gold template: Everyone (especially new members) should look over the Gold/Purple templates to become familiar with them before proposals come in. If Julie Carlsen is to have Gold course workshops, we should perhaps invite her to a meeting to go over the Gold template. We want everyone to understand the wording and intent before we begin fielding questions.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 am.

Respectively submitted by
Brian F. Martensen