

General Education & Diversity Committee
November 6, 2009
Approved Minutes

Present: Patrician Hoffman, Brian Martensen, Buddhadev Roychoudhury, Rachelle Toupençe

The meeting began at 8:05 am.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 30th meeting were approved.

Replacement: The executive committee will have to approve the replacement from SBS, but do not meet for a few weeks. We were asked if it is okay if the candidate for replacement begins coming to meetings before that time to get up to speed. Our meetings are of course open to the public anyway, so of course we find this acceptable and in fact encourage it.

Assessment Teams: The category 8 team met last week and seems to be progressing. They have been given past reports and are currently collecting data. The category 7 team will be getting together soon.

Gold Workshops: The afternoon still has to be planned. Rachelle will continue this process and begin contacting people to run the afternoon sessions.

CDS: Some proposers of Gold courses last year seem confused as to whether there courses were approved. The history tab in CDS shows that the proposal was returned for revision, but the proposals themselves simply say pending. Brian will ask about this at the CDS workgroup meeting this afternoon. He will also email the committee copies of the email and letter sent out to Gold proposers last year explaining the delay in approving Gold courses.

Category 1A language (Informational Item): The English department seems interested in changing the competencies for Category 1A. They are the only department in that category. The procedure would seem to be that we would first meet with them to discuss the possible changes and include any changes on a submeet agenda. It would then go to Exec for approval. However, since our competencies must still meet the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MTC) competencies, presumably a MNSCU committee would then need to approve. There seem to be three committees that deal with the MTC. We will need to find out which is appropriate to send this to.

The larger issue of how competencies are changed as best educational practices change with advances in pedagogical research was briefly discussed. The institution should be nimble and relevant, yet we want stable policies that departments count on. We may see a day when differentiated instruction, modular learning, etc. are

commonplace in courses and student may demonstrate the completion of competencies in a different way than is currently allowed.

Guideline Language: The language of the Gen. Ed. Guidelines in the bulletin could be clearer on certain items. The wording on Category 2 seems particularly confusing. It may be the way it is due to meeting the MTC, but it is essentially an optional category. The phrase “or” in the guidelines may be the issue. Each member is asked to think about ways the wording can be improved and we will revisit this issue when time permits.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 am.

Respectively submitted by
Brian F. Martensen