

Minutes
University Council on General Education
March 19, 2008 Meeting

In Attendance: Professors Ben Wallace, Milton Gosney, Joe Kobyłka, Ken Hamilton, Pia Vogel, Rick Worland, Bill Barnard, and Wayne Woodward; Scott Bartlett for Associate Dean for Robb Pocklington; University Honors Program Director David D. Doyle; Student Representative Kyle Yarberry; Acting Associate Dean Jim Gerhardt; and Assistant to the Associate Dean for General Education Julian Guevara.

Review of Council Minutes

Dr. Gerhardt asked the Council to review the minutes for the meeting of February 24, 2008. The minutes were approved as written.

Course Proposals

Perspectives/History/Human Diversity: A History of Islamic Empires (HIST 2379) submitted by Sabri Ates on March 17, 2008. This course fulfills the introductory level of this topic, one of the Perspectives requirements to allow a course count as a perspectives. This course is also one of the non-western subfields of the history department. This course would be a great addition to our GEC offerings as SMU is short on Islamic courses. After further discussion a motion was made to approve HIST 2379 as a Perspectives/ History/Human Diversity offering; the motion was seconded and approved.

Cultural Formations: Learning English in America: The Immigrant Experience (CFB 33XX/EDU 4300) submitted by Abigail Bartoshesky on March 17, 2008. Members agreed that the topic of Immigration is a very sensitive and interesting topic. This course is currently required for EDU majors to take and is also available as an elective for non-majors to take. With the information that was provided on the course proposal, Council members agreed that it should not be a Cultural Formations offering. There is potential for it to be more, but as it stands it is too much a professional education course, lacking the multidisciplinary perspectives expected of a Cultural Formations offering. Council members suggested the proposal explore more of the public policy and pedagogical controversies over the topic. A motion was made to table this course; the motion was seconded and approved.

GEC Exemption for Computer Science Degree Plan with Associate Dean Jim Dunham and Mark Fontenot

The Council began a discussion of a proposal to grant an exemption of 6.0 hours of GEC Cultural Formations and/or Perspectives for the Computer Science major, as it is already for the Computer Engineering major. The exemption for Computer Engineering was established earlier because accreditation requirements for that degree program, plus standard GEC requirements, extended that major beyond 122 term-credit-hours. Accreditation for Computer Science can be accomplished currently within standard 122-hour degree requirements. The new exemption would accommodate additional major requirements that the Engineering faculty believe would strengthen the preparation the Computer Science program affords its students; further, they anticipate that Computer Science accreditation will require this adaptation in the near future. Due to time, the meeting was forced to come to a close. If available, the Council would like to invite Associate Dean Jim Dunham to the next UCGE meeting.

The Council adjourned its meeting at 4:45pm.

Council members received the following documents:

1. Agenda;
2. Minutes for February 24, 2008;
3. New course proposal, see item 3a and 3b;
 - a. **Perspectives/History/Human Diversity:** A History of Islamic Empires (HIST 2379) submitted by Sabri Ates on March 17, 2008;
 - b. **Cultural Formations:** Learning English in America: The Immigrant Experience (CFB 33XX/EDU 4300) submitted by Abigail Bartoshesky on March 17, 2008.