

Minutes
University Council on General Education
September 5, 2007 Meeting

In Attendance: Professors Ken Hamilton, Victoria Lockwood, Pamela Patton, Bill Barnard, Via Vogel, Rick Worland, and Pia Vogel; Nancy Jenull for Associate Dean Jennifer Haden; Associate Dean Gary Moskowitz; Associate Dean Robb Pocklington; University Honors Program Director David D. Doyle; Student Representative Kyle Yarberry; and Assistant to the Associate Dean for General Education, Julian Guevara; Acting Associate Dean Jim Gerhardt, chair

Review of Council Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of April 4, 2007 were approved as written.

Opening Remarks

Gerhardt welcomed new and returning members to the first meeting of the 2007-2008 academic year of the University Council on General Education.

Course Proposals

The Council considered two SMU-in-Italy courses proposed for Perspectives credit. Gerhardt stated that students frequently petition for these two courses to fulfill Perspectives requirements. To decrease the volume of petitions that come through the Office of General Education, Dean Cordell had met with Professor Windrow (SMU-in-ITALY) and encouraged her to submit course proposals for formal listing in the General Education Curriculum. Doyle noted that a course approved by the Council would mean one less paper process for students seeking to take to fulfill these perspectives requirements.

Perspectives/History and Art History: Art and Architecture (ARHS 3333) submitted by Kathy Windrow on 4/26/07. One Council member questioned the written component for an Art History course as this course proposal does not appear to include either; most members agreed that there is not enough reading involved. Members requested clarification of 1) historical background of Writing/Reading Component for Perspectives, 2) numbers of pages Reading/Writing for abroad, and 3) number of writing requirements for abroad. Worland, who has taught in the SMU-in-Italy program, stated that it is very difficult to expect students to do a large amount of writing in a Summer-in-Italy course. One goal of the class is to experience Italy's culture and traditions. Members suggested that perhaps the course could fulfill the Perspectives requirements if it could at least include a journal or some type of write where they are able to express their experience. The Council tabled the proposal and asked Gerhardt to request revisions.

Perspectives/Arts: Drawing in Italy (ASDR 1310) submitted by Kathy Windrow on 4/26/07. The question of the writing component was asked again and members referred to page 19 of the GEC booklet "where appropriate, they must be writing-intensive". After further discussion a motion was made to approve ASDR 1310 as a Perspectives/Arts offering; the motion was seconded and approved.

Cultural Formations: Contemporary East Asian Cinema, 1997-Present (CF 33XX), submitted by Kevin Heffernan on 4/26/07. Members asked to have more time to review this course and suggested that Professor Heffernan submit a revised proposal following the current Course Proposal Form and clarifying of linkages among assigned readings, the topical outline, and the disciplines represented by those topics. The Council tabled the proposal and asked Gerhardt to request revisions.

Review of General Education Curriculum

Gerhardt suggested that the Council might usefully anticipate a forthcoming review of the General Education Curriculum by gathering and discussing information on general curricular requirements at other universities, including but not limited to those schools regularly researched as “benchmark” and “operational” peer universities. Some members expressed concern regarding a self-initiated review and suggested waiting for a clearer signal from the Provost’s Office before initiating any such research. A lively discussion followed, concluding with no decision.

The Council adjourned its meeting at 4:45pm.

Council members received the following documents:

1. Agenda;
2. Minutes for April 4, 2007;
3. New course proposals, see item 3a, 3b, and 3c;
 - a. **Perspectives/History and Art History:** Art and Architecture (ARHS 3333) submitted by Kathy Windrow on 4/26/07
 - b. **Perspectives/Arts:** Drawing in Italy (ASDR 1310) submitted by Kathy Windrow on 4/26/07
 - c. **Cultural Formations:** Contemporary East Asian Cinema, 1997-Present, (CF 33XX) submitted by Kevin Heffernan on 4/26/07

The next meeting of the University Council on General Education will be held on September 19, 2007.