

Minutes
University Council on General Education
February 11, 2009 Meeting

In Attendance: Professors Ken Hamilton, Joe Kobylka, Pamela Patton, Brad Thompson, Pia Vogel and Wayne Woodward; Associate Dean Robb Pocklington; Associate Dean Dennis D. Cordell; and Assistant to the Associate Dean for General Education Julián Guevara.

Review of Council Minutes

Dr. Cordell asked the Council to review the minutes for the meeting of January 28, 2009. Given the lack of a quorum, Cordell proposed that the minutes be sent out by electronic mail to Council members for amendment and approval.

Student Representative

Dr. Cordell announced that Samantha Colletti will not be able to serve as the student representative on the Council due to her class schedule. Samantha was excited to be invited to join the Council this term. However, she later discovered that one of the classes she needs for graduation occurs at the same time as Council meetings. She did help with two rounds of identifying student representatives, but they did not follow through on requests to join the Council. Dr. Cordell will instead focus on finding a student representative for the 2009-2010 Academic Year the way he has done in the past--by consulting the new President of the Student Association in May.

Course Proposals

Perspectives/Literature: Boccaccio's *Decameron* and the Medieval Storytelling Tradition, (FL 3394), submitted by Brandy Alvarez on 02/03/09. Council members agreed that the course seems to qualify to fulfill the Perspectives/Literature requirement. Members would like to ask Professor Brandy Alvarez to fully answer the course proposal question under: II. *NEED FOR COURSE, question 1 (1b)*. After a brief discussion a motion was made to approve the course if the Professor Alvarez can submit a response and resubmit a revised version of the proposal to Dr. Cordell. The motion was seconded and approved.

Perspectives/History and Art History: Spanish Paintings at the Prado Museum, (ARHS 3344), submitted by Maria Fernandez-Shaw Toda on 12/03/09. The general consensus from the Council was to approve the course as a Perspectives/History and Art History offering with the condition that a second paper be added, and re-submit the revised proposal to Dr. Cordell. A motion was made, seconded, and approved.

Perspectives/History and Art History: Modern Painters in Spain, (ARHS 3360), submitted by Maria Fernandez-Shaw Toda on 12/03/09. Dr. Cordell made the Council aware that this is the second proposal today from study abroad that is frequently petitioned through our office. Members would like to ask the Professor to fully answer the course proposal question under: II. *NEED FOR COURSE, question 1 (1b)*. After a brief discussion a motion was made to approve the course if the professor can submit a response to Dr. Cordell. Director Susan Kress added that it may be a little difficult for foreign faculty to fully grasp an understanding of how their course(s) fit overall at SMU and therefore may not be able to clearly answer the question. Dr. Cordell suggested we could possibly add a specific question on the course proposal that will only target SMU Abroad faculty. A motion was made to approve ARHS 3360 as a Perspectives/History and Art History course; the motion was seconded and approved.

Perspectives/History and Art History/Human Diversity: At the Crossroads: Gender and Sexuality in the Southwest, (HIST 4304), submitted by David D. Doyle on 1/27/09. This course involves 5 short essays, 10-12 pages in writing assignments. After a very brief discussion a motion was made to offer HIST 4304 as a Perspectives/History and Art History, and Human Diversity; the motion was seconded and approved.

Cultural Formations: The Medieval Formation of English Culture, (CFA 3345/HIST 3345), submitted by Jeremy Adams on 01/15/09. Council members commended Professor Adams for submitting a well written course proposal and wish he could also offer this course not only in Oxford but also SMU. A motion was made to approve this course as a Cultural Formations; the motion was seconded and approved.

Cultural Formations: The Taos Experience: an Independent Research Seminar, (CFA 3346), submitted by David D. Doyle on 01/27/09. This course is designed for University Honors Program students. It is called a seminar because the students undertake independent research projects but they do also meet in class regularly. The UHP has financing from the Richter Funds to enable students to take this course and do their research at SMU-in-Taos. These funds must be used for independent research in international or a cross-cultural settings. A motion was made to approve CFA 3346 with the condition that Dr. Doyle answer: *II. NEED FOR COURSE., #3.* The motion was seconded and approved.

The Council adjourned at 4:07pm.

Council members received the following documents:

1. **Council minutes for meeting of February 11, 2009;**
2. **New course proposals as follows:**
 - a. **Perspectives/Literature: Boccaccio's *Decameron* and the Medieval Storytelling Tradition, (FL 3394), submitted by Brandy Alvarez on 02/03/09.**