

**Minutes**  
**University Council on General Education**  
**March 18, 2009 Meeting**

***In Attendance:*** Professors Milton Gosney, Rick Halperin, Ken Hamilton, Pamela Patton, Brad Thompson, Pia Vogel and Wayne Woodward; Associate Dean Jennifer Haden; Associate Dean Gary Moskowitz; 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 February 11, 2009. The minutes were approved as written.

***Announcements***

The number of new course proposals are beginning to decline. In discussions with the General Education Review Committee, the consensus is that there will be some sort of Capstone experience in the new curriculum. Therefore, if colleagues wish to propose new CF courses, they should be encouraged to do so. There will undoubtedly be some mechanism put in place to consider them for inclusion in the new curriculum.

***Review of Revised Course Proposals***

At the February 22 meeting, Council members approved several course proposals with the request that they address specific issues. Dr. Cordell shared the revised course proposals with the Council. In the case of David Doyle's proposed CF "Taos Experience," the Council asked that question II.3. be completed, which Dr. Doyle did. The second proposal was a Perspectives-Art History course, "Spanish Painting in Prado." The Council asked Professor Shaw to consider adding a second paper so that it would respect the norm for Art History courses. The same professor also proposed the Perspectives-Art History offering, "Modern Painters." That proposal omitted to discuss how the course fit into the Perspectives category; the revised version did so. The last proposal, for the Foreign Languages and Literature course "Boccaccio's Decameron," focused on the Italian classic. The proposal had not addressed question II.1., which the revised proposal did.

***New Course Proposals***

**Cultural Formations: Schools and Society: The Evolution of America's Public School System, (CFB 3318), submitted by Andrea Hamilton on 02/06/09, (distributed via email on 02/06/09).**

Professor Hamilton is an adjunct lecturer in History who did her undergraduate degree at SMU. About 4-5 years ago, she published her dissertation on Women's Higher Education in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century with The John Hopkins University Press. She has wanted to teach the proposed course at SMU as a Cultural Formations offering in the University Honors Program. She has also taught a variety of courses for Dedman College. After a brief discussion, members unanimously agreed that the course meets the of inter-disciplinarity standard required for a Cultural Formations course. **A motion was made to approve the course as a Cultural Formations offering; the motion was seconded and approved.**

**Cultural Formations: Human Rights in Germany, (CFB 3360/FL XXXX), submitted by Sebastian Wogenstein on 02/06/09.** Professor Wogenstein will be joining SMU in Fall 2009. When FL and Dedman were trying to incorporate him into the teaching program, Wogenstein was taken by the idea of proposing a Cultural Formations course. (Dr. Cordell clarified that course with FL

designation are taught in English. Courses taught in a different language carry language on the SUBJ for example CHIN 1301.) **Following discussion, a motion was made to approve the course as a Cultural Formations offering; the motion was seconded and approved.**

***Update: The General Education Review Committee:***

The committee has met with the Faculty from all schools, student groups, Faculty Senate, advisors, community engagement groups in Student Affairs and the A-CE Program. There has been a strong effort to get the SMU community involved. Important questions remain, which Dean Cordell discussed with the UCGE: How can we involve even more faculty and more staff to create and launch the actual curriculum? Another issue raises the question of how formal approval of the curriculum should be secured and when: is it when the outline is in place or when the courses are set up. The new curriculum addresses some of the difficulties raised by the GEC: 1) The committee has made an effort to avoid courses that exist only at SMU, which makes it impossible to accept courses from other schools to fulfill the requirement; 2) The committee has made a decision, in line with its charge from the Provost, to allow some double-counting; 3) The committee wishes to avoid conflicts such as those that arrive with our current Perspectives courses which may not be counted towards the major. Such a rule penalizes both students and departments that offer compelling gateway courses to their majors. There is a strong feeling that we have learned a lot from the current curriculum and this will help us avoid pitfalls in the new one.

The Council adjourned at 4:03pm

Council members received the following documents:

1. **Council minutes for meeting of February 11, 2009;**
2. **New course proposals as follows:**
  - a. **Cultural Formations: Schools and Society: The Evolution of America's Public School System, (CFB 3318), submitted by Andrea Hamilton on 02/06/09, (distributed via email on 02/06/09);**
  - b. **Cultural Formations: Human Rights in Germany, (CFB 3360/FL XXXX), submitted by Sebastian Wogenstein on 02/06/09.**