

**GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, February 20, 2006
1 – 2:30 p.m.
101 Whitehurst**

Present: Barbara Stoecker, Pam Bowers, Joe Fowler, Jon Comer, Jason Lavery, Mark White, Nigel Jones, Pam Bowers, John Steinbrink, Susan Weir, Roger Zierau, Mike Thompson, and Gail Gates.

Dr. Thompson requested help in determining how to meet the new writing requirements in religion courses. He explained that with large enrollments and no undergraduate or graduate majors, it would be difficult to grade all the writing assignments. The Council agreed that if they made an exception for one department they would have to make exceptions for a variety of departments. Members suggested lowering the courses to a 2000 level which would decrease the writing expectations. Dr. Gates will contact Dr. Thompson with this suggestion. Some member voiced their concerns about the need for more assistance/funding in the large general education courses and noted that the colleges claim there are no funds to hire help for the faculty. Dr. Gates commented that the colleges need to make a request for funds to Dr. Strathe through the college.

1. New General Education Designation Requests:

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

AG 308003 – Culture and Agriculture of Italy, request “H, I” designations, one-time only, effective Summer 2006.

Denied “H, I” designations, does not meet the requirement for formal writing assignments.¹ GEAC members request that the department create a permanent course number because this course has been offered for several years as a zero ending course.

LA 49901 – Japan Design Study Program, request “I” designation, one-time only, effective Summer 2006.

Denied “I” designation, does not meet the requirements for formal writing assignments¹. GEAC members request that the department create a permanent course number because this course has been offered for several years as a zero ending course.

¹ The writing requirement for H, S and I courses is defined as follows:

Lower division courses - outside of class writing assignments appropriate to the discipline that are graded with feedback on writing. Minimum of 5 pages of writing assignments during semester.

Upper division courses - outside of class writing assignments that give students the opportunity to incorporate feedback in subsequent writing assignments (by revising and resubmitting one assignment or submitting more than one assignment). Minimum of 10 pages of writing assignments during semester.

College of Arts and Sciences

ANTH 4123 – Archaeology of North America, request “S” designation, effective Spring 2007.

Denied “S” designation, the course does not appear to meet the writing requirements¹ (need details on writing assignments). Responses do not clearly explain how the course fulfills the criteria for an “S” designation.

HIST 3003 – The Soviet Union, request “I” designation, effective Spring 2007. Cross listed with POLS and RUSS.

Approved “I” designation, effective Spring 2007.

POLS 300312 – The Soviet Union, request “I” designation, effective Spring 2007. Cross listed with HIST and RUSS.

Approved “I” designation, effective Spring 2007.

RUSS 3003 – The Soviet Union, History, Society and Culture, request “I” designation, effective Spring 2007. Cross listed with HIST and POLS.

Approved “I” designation, effective Spring 2007.

HIST 3043 – Ancient Mesopotamia: Iraq, Iran & Syria, request “H” designation, effective Spring 2007.

Approved “H” designation, effective Spring 2007.

HIST 3363 – Popular Religion in the West, 1300 – 1700, request “H” designation, effective Spring 2007.

Denied “H” designation, the course does not appear to meet the writing requirements¹ and it is not clear how the course fulfills the criteria for an “H” designation.

HIST 3543 – Israel & Palestine in Modern Times, request “I” designation, effective Spring 2007.

Approved “I” designation, effective Spring 2007.

HIST 4980373 – Gender Relations in Chinese History, request “H” designation, one-time only, effective Fall 2006.

Approved “H” designation, effective Fall 2006, one-time only.

PHIL 3920066 – Philosophy of Film, request “H” designation, one-time only, effective Fall 2006.

Approved “H” designation, effective Fall 2006, one-time only. GEAC members request that the department create a permanent course number because this course has been offered for several years as a zero ending course.

¹ The writing requirement for H, S and I courses is defined as follows:

Lower division courses - outside of class writing assignments appropriate to the discipline that are graded with feedback on writing. Minimum of 5 pages of writing assignments during semester.

Upper division courses - outside of class writing assignments that give students the opportunity to incorporate feedback in subsequent writing assignments (by revising and resubmitting one assignment or submitting more than one assignment). Minimum of 10 pages of writing assignments during semester.

PHIL 3920922 – Ethics and International Justice, request “H, I” designations, one-time only, effective Fall 2006.

Approved “H” designation, effective Fall 2006, one-time only. Denied “I”; it is not clear how this course fulfills the criteria and goals of an “I” designation.

2. General Education Lower Division Requirements

University academic regulation 3.4.c states “at least one course in [A, H, N, & S] must come from the approved general education lower division list”.

Dr. Gates had advisers asking for general education substitutions for “H” because there are relatively few lower division “H” courses. GEAC members agreed to leave the lower division requirement but continue to allow individual requests to waive this requirement.

3. Proposed Diversity Course

Review attached criteria for diversity courses (emailed after last meeting)

Dr. Gates received an email regarding the word “subculture” in the criteria for the diversity course. The email suggested that the word was degrading. The Webster’s Dictionary definition of subculture is “one or more recognized cultures or groups”. GEAC members discussed possible wording changes including “culturally diverse”, “cultural diverse population”, or “socially constructed groups” Dr. Gates will ask Dr. Cornell Thomas for suggestions.

4. Plans for Review of “N,L” Courses

Dr. Gates distributed the list of “N, L” courses for review and each member is to review 11 courses. The council will review the first half (through Geography) of the courses at our next meeting on March 24th and the second half (Geology through Zoology) at our April 19th meeting. Dr. Gates commented that there have been complaints that the “N” and “L” course criteria are repetitive and asked members to consider whether we need to change the criteria and goals of the “N” and “L”.

5. Other Business

There will be a meeting on March 3, 2006, 1:30 – 3:00 in Case Study I, Student Union with General Education Advisory Committee, General Education Advisory Council, and Assessment Council to discuss general education assessment. The groups will begin to discuss the roles and expectations of these groups. Pam Bowers handed out a packet that included historical documents for review and ask members to RSVP to the meeting.

General Education Assessment Committee is working on a process to assess OSU’s general education goal related to diversity.

Adjourn: 2:30 p.m.