

INSTRUCTION COUNCIL
September 22, 2006

MINUTES

Present: Pam Bowers, Bruce Crauder, Cyril Clarke, David T. John, Bob Davis, Ed Miller, Jeretta Nord, Jerry Montag, Mark Payton, Shiretta Ownbey, Bill Ivy, Kevin Moore, Rita Peaster, and Gail Gates

1. Implementation of the "D" Designation

GEAC approved the diversity course general education designation with implementation recommended on the 2007-2008 degree sheets and required on the 2008-2009 degree sheets.

Diversity – (D)

1. Criteria:

- a. Courses designated "D" emphasize one or more socially constructed groups* (e.g. racial, ethnic, religious, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation) in the United States.
- b. At least one half of the course must relate to these groups.

2. Goals:

- a. Students will critically analyze historical and contemporary examples of socially constructed groups in American society or culture.
- b. Students will critically analyze the distribution of political, economic, and/or cultural benefits and opportunities afforded to these groups.
- c. Students will understand how these groups relate to the student's academic discipline and American culture.
- d. Students will demonstrate their understanding through written work that provides them the opportunity to enhance their writing skills; upper division "D" courses will include extensive written work.

Diversity courses may also carry an "S" or "H" designation.

- The General Education Advisory Council defined "socially constructed groups" as groups protected by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the American Disabilities Act of 1990, along with age and sexual orientation.

The original intent was to implement the diversity designation next year, however, degree sheet are due in November so there is not enough time for departments to request the designation and put the course on the degree sheets. Dr. Gates asked if members had comments regarding the criteria and noted that the departments might want to look at the existing "H" and "S" courses and discuss the best approach to adding the "D" designation if applicable. Dr. Gates suggests that if colleges believe the addition of the "D" designation will increase financial needs; include the request in the budget process. Dr. Gates asked members to check with their colleges to ask if an additional curricular request for the "D" designation should occur in Spring 2007.

Pam Bowers commented that there will be a workshop on October 19th covering General Education Assessment of diversity designation and encourages participation. Dr. Bowers noted that the General Education Assessment Committee will be working with faculty to develop assignments to assess diversity and asked for members to give her names of faculty with capstone or other courses that address diversity.

Degree sheets for 2008 – 2009 must indicate that students must take courses with “I” and “D” designations. An initial draft of the degree sheet template was developed by the Registrar’s Office for each college. The Registrar’s Office plans to implement the degree sheet templates for the 2007-2008 academic year.

2. Other

Members were given a draft of the proposed Declaration and Change of Major Form and asked to review and give comments. Members agreed that there was too much information for one form and asked that separate forms be created to address the different issues. Members suggested adding instructions on how the form should be filled out. Some members commented that they were concerned about the form being accessible to students on the web. If a student is restricted from declaring a second major or a minor, these must be described in the catalog before they can be enforced. The department with the second major or minor will need to complete an audit to make sure a student completes their minor or second major before it will be posted on the final transcript. If the minor is not completed, the minor/second major needs to be removed from the transcript.

Mark Payton commented that the Graduate Council and the Academic Standards and Policies Committee of Faculty Council discussed a proposal to add a default grade for students who receive an “I” grade. The default grade would go on the transcript in one year if the incomplete assignments are not completed. The “I” plus default grade would appear on the unofficial transcript and the “I” appears on the official transcript. Member commented that there needs to be a policy on what constitutes a default grade and the students need to be aware of this policy. It was also suggested that the policy be revisited in one year.

Jerry handed out the enrollment guide for Spring 2007.

Adjourn: 10:20 a.m.