Committee on General Education
4/4/19; 11:00 AM; Warner Hall 103

Nathanial Walker (student representative) reporting

Members Present: Patricial Cumella, Rebecca Hall (for Dean Brown), Rotua Lumbantobing, Thomas Millner, Jennifer O’Brien, Theodora Pinou, Charles Rocca, Nathanial Walker,

Guests Present: Rob Eisenson, Lauren Feller, Don Gagnon, Missy Alexander.

I. Announcements
   – N/A

II. Motion to Approve of Minutes (O’Brien / Millner)
   – No Comments
   – Vote to Approve: 5-0-2 (Y-N-A)

III. Course Proposals

Motion to Approve Writing Proposal; Writing 465 – W3 (Pinou / Lumbantobing)
   – This proposal does not address all outcomes. The relationship between faculty and student, critical to W3, is not adequately stated.
   – Motion to Table (Cumella)
     o Passes Unanimously

Motion to Approve Theatre Proposal; Theatre 2XX – CT (O’Brien / Millner)
   – Committee is very satisfied with proposal
   – Motion to accept Passes Unanimously

Discussion on History Proposal; HIS 3XX – W2
   – Proposal was not revised.
   – Dr. Rocca thinks it needs to go through PRC and was input to Sharepoint incorrectly.

Motion to Approve Social Sciences; SS 400 – W3, CE (Gustafson / O’Brien)
   – Format was a bit busy (includes other than just competency justifications)
     o This committee needs to be concerned with just those justifications
   – Given the course’s reality, this is relatively common-sense.
   – Provost Alexander would like a “clean course outline” for Academic Affairs’ records
   – Motion to accept (8-0-1)

Motion to Approve Social Sciences; SS 300 – outline change to QR (Lumbantobing / O’Brien)
   – Not an entry-level class. Designed solely for Social Sciences major
Dr. Bandhauer verifies that non Social Science majors do not take SS 300
Under “interpretation,” where is significance of analysis? Are students collecting data, or are students?
  - Dr. Bandhauer and Dr. Lubamtobing verify that students are not collecting data. Interpretation of data is present in the course.
- This is a statistics course. MAT 120 is no longer required for Social Sciences students, and this class is in lieu of a general statistics course.
- There is discussion of weather evaluating or analyzing data indicative of drawing conclusions.
- Passes (8-0-1)

Motion to Approve Physics, Astronomy, and Meteorology; ES 110 SI – (O’Brien / Gustafson)
- Discussion of weather the language of the proposal adequately conveys students’ discovery of hypothesis development.
  - Dr. Pinou mentioned that this can be an affirmation lab, but students need to develop hypotheses, not predictions; the philosophy on doing this needs to be conveyed in the course and in the course outcome.
  - The course needs to adequately convey this in language
- Committee members would like to see clarification on the exact language
  - The justifications for the competency do not line up directly with the student learning outcomes. This is especially notable on justifications 1 and 3. The fulfillment of these SLOs need to be better articulated.
- The language of the outline does not convey that students are undergoing the scientific inquiry process. As in this outline, there is no way for committee members to evaluate whether or not where scientific inquiry is located throughout the course.
- Motion to table (Cumella / Poinou)
  - Motion passes unanimously

IV. Old Business

a. Repetitions of Competencies: comments from Keith Gauvin
  - No data per students’ major
    - Committee members want to target specific majors in this analysis
      - Committee members also want to see data by school
    - The survey of 255 students is a general random sample of students.
    - Keith would like to conduct the survey after the end of a semester. It is hard to conduct a survey when students are not in the middle of classes
    - This is definitely an incomplete survey as
      - 1) Courses were added during the time the class of 2020 was taking coursework
      - 2) The class of 2020 are juniors, and can still take courses and finish their completion of the General Education Curriculum
  - Dr. Rocca will ask for follow-up data. The Committee’s comments will be relayed to Keith.
- Dr. Hall discussed adding a specific repetition or new competency in order to accomplish repetition.
- The first assessment cycle of competencies will be completed by 2022. There is both a desire to see more data to make a decision, as well as to use what data we have now to make a change.
  - It is also possible to use prior literature on competence-based education to make new changes
- Last year, we had three proposals for repetitions:
  - No change
  - One more QR/SI exposure
  - One more general exposure
- There are limitations to make this decision by how courses have applied for competencies.
- Dr. Rocca proposed making a motion on how to consider this issue.
- Motion to add a fourth second-exposure for the class of 2019 (Gustafson / O’Brien)
  - Motion fails 1-6-2 (Y-N-A)
- Motion to hold off review until Spring of 2022 (Pinou / Cumella)
  - This would be when there is a full class of data.
  - Motion fails 2-3-4 (Y-N-A)
- Motion to revisit discussion during the academic year of 2020-2021 (Mullner / Cumella)
  - Motion passes 6-1-2 (Y-N-A)

b. Faculty Handbook Updates
- The changes we had discussed were implemented
  - Once bylaw changes for the year are updated, the Provost will update the Faculty Handbook. As the new form is approved by the Committee as well as University Senate, it may be approved.
  - The Provost would like this proposal (if approved) to be sent to Senate.
- Motion to approve (Gustafson / O’Brien)
  - Motion passes unanimously

c. Bylaw Updates; motion to consider (O’Brien / Millner)
- On the fourth point amendment added:
  - Email votes must considered a roll call vote, and records of the vote must be added to the meeting’s minutes for approval.
  - The discussion revolves around how to offer proof of votes. Whether this is in approval of minutes, via SurveyMonkey, printouts of emails.
- On the third point
  - Amended from “occur verbally” to “occur by voice vote.”
- Dr. Rocca will bring a version with all edits to the next meeting.

V. New Business

a. Motion to accept QR Assessment Workshop Report (O’Brien / Cumella)
– As there are suggestions, and there must also be discussion, tabled.
– Motion to table (Cumella / Millner)

Adjournment at 12:11.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nathanial Walker