

**GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL
Meeting of February 6, 2003
Minutes**

PRESENT:

Faculty: Valerie Cisler, Randall Heckman, Allan Jenkins, Sonja Kropp, Larry Kuskie, John Lillis, Chuck Peek, Janet Steele, Kenya Taylor, Ed Walker

Students: Doug Carroll

Ex officio members: Mary Daake, Kristi Milks, Ken Nikels, Kim Schipporeit, and Bill Wozniak

Absent: Peg Camp, Sandy Cook-Fong, Jeanne Cutler, Marta Moorman

Wozniak called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Ockinga Center.

A. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2002

The minutes of the December meeting were approved via e-mail.

B. CD/WI COURSE SUBMISSIONS

1. Writing Intensive:

- a. FCSC 402, Selected Readings in Marriage & Family Relations (Jeanne Stolzer)

Peek (Steele) moved for approval of the above course offering as WI. The motion passed.

2. Cultural Diversity:

- a. none

C.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. WI Cleanup:

- a. None

2. CD Cleanup:

- a. None

3. Notification of New WI Course-Instructor Assignments:

- a. TE 100, Teaching in a Democratic Society (Glenn Tracy)

Wozniak announced he had a request to designate a section of TE 100 (already approved as WI) taught by Glenn Tracy (already approved as a WI instructor) as a WI course. In accordance with the

policy established at the last meeting, he was notified of the new assignment and was sent a course syllabus. These new designations will be announced at the General Studies Council meetings to provide a written record.

4. Reconsideration of Policy Concerning Department Chair Clerical Errors

Wozniak asked the Council to reconsider the tabled motion from the December meeting. The motion read:

"If a course had been approved for WI status and had been offered by an approved WI instructor, but the Department Chair or Program Director did not list the course as WI in the schedule for a particular semester, then the Chair of the Department or Program may request to have the course designated as WI retroactively. (All approvals for WI status were obtained before the beginning of the course in question.) The request must be approved by the General Studies Council before the changes can be recorded at the Registrar's Office."

The difficulty remained in how to implement the changes. Wozniak suggested that the Department Chairs assume responsibility for notifying the students and their advisors of the WI credit and the fact that it will not show up on computerized degree audits. He also offered to keep track of the class rosters of those courses, so that individual cases can be handled when problems crop up. Jenkins suggested that a Web page located on the General Studies Web Site be developed. It could list these courses. *Walker (Jenkins) moved approval. The motion passed.*

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Forms for CD, WI, and Student Appeals: This item was postponed until a later meeting.

2. Information Concerning Web Page Redesign:

Wozniak distributed a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that will constitute a portion of the redesigned Web Site for General Studies. He asked for input from the Council concerning these questions and other features they might like to see.

3. Consideration of Recommendations from 2002 Academic Program Review:

Wozniak distributed a list of the recommendations from the 2001 General Studies Program Review. The suggestions are viewable on the web at <http://www.unk.edu/factbook/index.php?id=4035> The recommendations will form the basis of future agenda items and considerations by the Council. Wozniak will also send out the recommendations from the previous program review which was completed in 1988.

4. Initial discussion of an upcoming capstone course proposal:

Wozniak described a course, currently being reviewed by the NSS Academic Policy Committee, which could serve as a model for the GS Capstone course. The course is derived from a program supported by AAC&U called SENCER (Science Education for New Civic Engagement and Responsibility.) The course will be team taught this summer by Drs. Mike Mosher (Chemistry), Kerri Skinner (Biology), Joan Blauwkamp

(Political Science), and Wozniak (Psychology). Wozniak will deliver the proposal to the Council at the March meeting.

5. Preliminary Discussion of General Studies Assessment:

Wozniak distributed three documents: a summary of the learning objectives for the General Studies Program and two documents describing problems and potential models for an assessment program for General Studies. The Assessment subcommittee, at this point, is considering the question whether the General Studies objectives which have been developed should be considered learning outcomes for students, or whether they are objectives designed to help evaluate whether a course is suitable for General Studies and/or a category of the Program, such as the Historical Perspective. Wozniak asked the Council to consider these objectives because ultimately they could form the basis of the General Studies Assessment Program.

F. MISCELLANEOUS

G. NEXT MEETING:

The next General Studies Council meeting will be March 6, 2003 at 3:30 p.m., in the Cedar Room of the Nebraskan.

H. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.