

University of Nebraska at Kearney
General Studies Council
Meeting of October 6, 2005
Minutes

Present: Mary Ann Barton, Debbie Bridges, Valerie Cisler, Mary Daake, Randall Heckman, Sonja Kropp, Larry Kuskie, Kristi Milks, Marta Moorman, Glen Powell, Kim Schipporeit, Linda Spessard, Marguerite Tassi, Kenya Taylor, Vern Volpe

Absent: Peg Camp, Ed Walker, Maha Younes

Director, Glen Powell, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in room 2122, in Founders Hall.

A. Approve the April 28, 2005 and September 1, 2005 minutes:

Valerie Cisler sent a revised version of the 4/28/05 minutes to the Council for review. Cisler requested the changes be made for clarification. Two versions of the 4/28/05, minutes were distributed and after considerable discussion, Glen Powell asked the Council to act on one set of minutes.

***Larry Kuskie (Tassi) moved to approve Valerie Cisler's revised 4/28/05 minutes with two suggested changes. Motion carried unanimously.

***Kenya Taylor (Bridges) moved to approve the 9/1/05 minutes. Motion carried.

B. Old Business:

1. International Education Experience Policy for CD Credit:

A copy of the General Studies minutes from 12/4/03 was distributed for reference to the original International Education Experience Policy proposal. The policy adopted at the Faculty Senate meeting in February 2005 was also distributed for review.

The Director contacted Kate Heelan prior to the September meeting of the CD/WI Committee to see if they were aware of the new International Education Experience Policy. The committee was not aware of the policy. The policy was distributed for their review at their September meeting. The CD/WI Committee asked the General Studies Council to review and make suggestions because of their previous experience with CD policy and courses. A number of issues and suggestions were made by Council members. They are presented in the following memo sent to the CD/WI Committee.

Text of Memo:

GSC members stated that awarding CD credit for international experiences had been a long standing issue. They recognized that the development of the policy was an attempt to provide a solution to the issue. Several issues for consideration were raised. Some of the issues were framed as questions to address or simply as statements.

1. Criteria for defining CD credit:

- a. How strict should the interpretation of CD criteria be when evaluating a proposal based on international experience? One view may be that

the criteria for CD is either included within the specific proposal, or it is not, with approval contingent on whether the criteria is met. Another dimension to consider is whether or not the present criteria are flexible enough to accommodate an international experience. If the criteria lack flexibility, revisions in the criteria may then need to be made in order to better accommodate approval of proposals.

- b. Are the criteria for CD credit equitable when applied to credit based on international experiences? For example, is a trip to Japan equivalent to one to Europe under the existing CD criteria?
- c. The concept of CD tends to focus on the American concept focusing on underrepresented groups. This concept may be quite different in interpretation of an international experience. It may be that exposure to or study of a specific population group during a trip to Europe or Asia may satisfy the CD criteria.
- d. Should the criteria for CD credit be changed? It has remained essentially unchanged for some time. However, interpretations of the criteria may vary depending on the individuals utilizing it as well as changing views regarding cultural diversity. Are we willing to expand the criteria, or should we insist on the current interpretation in order to safeguard the initial creation of the CD designation – to educate and enhance sensitivity of UNK students to underrepresented groups as well as issues of race, ethnicity, or gender.
- e. Are there other ways for awarding international experience credit? It might be timely to address this issue with current discussions about internationalization, diversity, and the changing UNK Mission Statement to explore other ways for awarding credit.

2. Management:

- a. The present policy may need to be amended to clarify the responsibilities of the faculty member and respective department in regard to working with students. The WI Committee and chair appear to be given responsibilities beyond that of approving the experience for credit. It makes sense to amend the policy to clarify what the faculty member and respective department are expected to do once the experience is approved for credit.

C.

D. Governance Documents Review from General Studies Information Notebooks:

*****Valerie Cisler (Moorman) moved to approve that Glen Powell combine and edit the two governance documents to make one complete document. Mary Barton suggested while merging the two documents the CD/WI information should be deleted. Motion carried.**

E. Distribute Revised Assessment Plan Pages for Assessment Notebooks:

Revised copies of the assessment plan were distributed to replace the current pages in the assessment notebooks. Council members need to replace pages 4-6.

F. Academic Program Review:

Powell distributed a draft proposal for addressing the 2001 APR recommendations, assessment and strategic planning. In the proposal, Powell reviewed the list of strengths and concerns the external reviewer listed. Powell evaluated each and completed an analysis along with a schedule. The purpose of the proposal and analysis is to provide a framework for completing work on the APR recommendations in a context congruent with the current assessment process and Roundtable initiatives.

Powell grouped the concerns listed in the APR into three clusters. The clusters are as follows:

- Clarity of Program and Advising:
- Governance
- Curriculum

In each cluster, Powell listed initiatives changes that occurred since the APR. He also listed potential ideas for further addressing the concerns. Powell asked the Council to read/review the proposal and make a list of comments/recommendations/ideas.

G. New Business:

O. General Studies Program Alteration:

A copy of a Request to Create, Alter, or Discontinue an Undergraduate Academic Program form was distributed for altering the General Studies Program. The Industrial Technology Department requested the removal of SFED 235, General Safety Education, from the Personal Development section of the General Studies Program since it is currently not being offered.

*****Debbie Bridges (Heckman) moved to approve the program change. Motion carried. Kristi Milks will forward the proposal to the Academic Affairs Subcommittee.**

1. Information and Examples from Murray, Truman State Universities, and University of Georgia:

Powell distributed information about general education programs from other colleges. Powell will start to accumulate additional information and distribute to the Council. Council members were requested to also locate and submit examples from other institutions.

2. General Studies Working Session:

The Council was asked to review the student and faculty survey analyses and suggestions developed at the summer retreat and look at Powell's APR proposal for the next General Studies meeting, which will be a working session on November 3, 2005. In addition, the next regularly scheduled working session will be November 15, 2005, in Founders Hall, Room 2122.

H.

I. Miscellaneous:

General Studies Conferences:

J. Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled General Studies meeting will be on November 3, 2005, in Founders Hall, Room 2122, at 3:30.