THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO  
General Education Council  

Meeting Minutes  
March 2, 2015  
2:00 – 3:30 PM • 1607 Moore Humanities and Research Building  

Members present:   Allen, Anderson, Brown, Brumfield, Carroll, Duffy, Feather, Harris Houk, Henline, Kurtts, Pubantz, Rychtar, Sopper, and Zarecki  

Guests: Joseph Starnes, Kinesiology  

AGENDA ITEMS:  

I. Approval of Minutes from February 23, 2015. Motion to approve minutes. (Feather, Brown). Minutes approved.  

II. New Course Proposals  

THR 506 Non-Western Theatre and/or Film, requesting GN marker  
KIN 220 Physical Fitness for Life, requesting GNS category designation (previously tabled, requested additional rationale)  

Pam Brown advised sub-committee recommends approval of THR 506, requesting GN marker. Motion to approve THR 506 (Brown, Feather). Motion approved.  
Chair advised additional rationale for KIN 220 received and posted on Blackboard. Chair also thanked council for their open and honest remarks, and provided parameter for general education courses, Gen Ed is university wide, it does not belong to any one unit, or department. Council is charged with the ongoing maintenance and review of the assessment of the achievement of the goals, oversight of requirements, and approval of requests. Unlike unit curriculum committees, Gen Ed Council does not review minutia (textbooks, grading methods), the learning outcomes are not the definition of the course, they are assessment tools. Copies of original proposal for General Education Core categories, skills associated with SLOs, and general expectations for GNS (from 2008 General Education Summer Workshop) were distributed. SACSCOC language regarding general education (2.7.3) was shared as well. Motion to approve GNS category designation for KIN 220 (Kurtts, Carroll). Discussion followed concerning the application of scientific method, inquiry in the course, how explicit would this be? Joseph Starnes advised purpose of class goes beyond how the body works, includes nutrition, psychology, in doing this the students must understand themselves. Does this course meet the General Education Program criteria? Liam Duffy advised he forwarded his email regarding his concerns with the KIN 220 course receiving a GNS category designation with the department heads of Physics, Biology, Chemistry, and Geography. All four department heads agreed with Liam’s position. Department Heads should be involved in this discussion. This is an important course, but it seems to be about self-improvement, not
teaching science. Motion should be made to have some type of Kinesiology/Fitness marker in the General Education curriculum. Discussion continued concerning using self-improvement as a mechanism to learn science. Pam advised students must understand how the body works in this course, it could introduce students to science in a way they find science to be understandable. Liam advised stating a problem is not the same as explaining how the problem works, this course does not go through from a beginning level explaining basic fundamental chemistry and biology and building to understanding the human body. Pam advised textbook is not the only item used in the course. Question posed to Pam regarding the intent of GNS category designation now? Pam responded this course could attract non KIN majors, and interest them in science in a way that impacts them. KIN has partnered with non KIN departments, looking at similar things, through a different lens. Jerry Pubantz asked how the scientific method is taught in this course, such that the student can demonstrate the capability to do it. UCC requires a consultation form in matters such as this. Pam advised the behavior modification plan is the scientific process, students determine the problem doing labs, come up with hypothesis, and look at scientific inquiry. Discussion concerning need for elements of scientific method, course does appear to include information literacy, critical thinking and a discernment in teaching skills of being a savvy consumer, but the scientific method, whether it rests on chemistry or some sort of experimentation, does not seem to be included.

Question posed to Liam, what is it that a GNS course does that this course does not do? Liam stated GNS courses start with very basic principles and build up the concepts that are later in the text. That foundational information is not in this course. Pam reminded everyone that the text doesn’t exist by itself; we rely on faculty to teach the science behind the book, show connections to biology. Greg Carroll asked to call the question, as council has discussed this for two meetings. Discussion followed concerning voting process. Amendment to motion on the floor, to add the words secret ballot (Carroll, Kurtts). Discussion followed concerning need for secret ballot. Chair asked for a vote on amended motion, four in favor, three opposed and one abstained. Discussion continued and amended motion was withdrawn. Original motion on the floor to approve GNS category designation for KIN 220. Chair asked for a show of hands in voting to ensure accuracy of count, vote is four in favor, four opposed. Chair cast tie breaker vote in favor of the motion. Motion approved five to four. Chair advised there is an appeal process in place for curricular matters.

III. Recertification of GNS Courses

Chair has received correspondence from the Chair of the GNS Recertification sub-committee, the GNS courses will not be completed by March 16. With advising beginning March 16, motion made to postpone recertification until Fall 2016 (Allen, Kurtts). Motion approved. Current GNS courses will continue to carry the GNS category until recertification is complete.
IV. **Meeting on March 16**

Chair advised another meeting is scheduled for March 16; WI Committee should have their list of approved courses by then.

V. **New Business**

Chair advised SI Committee provided list of approved courses for Fall 2016:
- DCE/ENT 455 Entrepreneurial Career Strategies for Artists (Any instructor)
- NUR 395 Transition to Civilian Professional Nursing (Any instructor)
- ENG 230 Writing and Speaking for Workplace and Public (Amy Berrier only)
- SES 578 Language Teaching Methods with Deaf Students (Any instructor)

Next meeting is March 16, 2015.
Motion to adjourn (Anderson, Feather).
Meeting adjourned at 3:12 pm.