THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO  
General Education Council  
Meeting Minutes  
February 23, 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, Pettazzoni, Rychtar, Sopper, and Zarecki

AGENDA ITEMS:

I. Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2015. Motion to approve minutes. (Feather, Brown). Minutes approved.

II. New Course Proposals

KIN 220 Physical Fitness for Life, requesting GNS category designation
LLC 250 Global Cultures through Film, requesting GN marker
ENT 342 International Entrepreneurship, requesting GL marker (previously approved pending)

Pam Brown advised sub-committee recommends approval of GNS for KIN 220 and GN for LLC 250. Liam Duffy voiced a concern regarding the suitability of GNS for KIN 220. The student learning outcomes used for assessing science courses are being used in a way to justify that the scientific method is used, and somehow justifies that KIN 220 is a science course. This course does not seem to be a science course, more about self-improvement, students assessing themselves. We only require two science courses, and they should be real science courses. Discussion followed concerning labs included in the course, what students do related to scientific inquiry. The labs incorporate the application of science, physiology, anatomy. Using science does not make the course a science course. If this were one of the two natural science courses a student took at UNCG, would council feel like the student received the natural science learning that we intended for the general education program? Discussion continued concerning new GNS SLOs. The purpose of general education is to create well rounded students. Pam advised KIN 220 is about the science of the body, with aspects of genetics, data, using scientific process. This is a pre requisite for the other science based classes in Kinesiology.

Motion to table KIN 220 with a recommendation to revise course title, and provide a greater explanation of detailed science elements to be known by the students included in the course. (Anderson, Kurtts). Motion approved with one abstention.

Motion to approve LLC 250 for GN marker (Carroll, Anderson). Motion approved.

Chair advised revised syllabus for ENT 342 was received.
III. **New Members for 2015-16**

Chair advised David Carlone, Communication Studies, has agreed to chair the council for a two year term beginning fall 2015. Amy Vines (English) will replace Jen Feather.

IV. **Revision to Recertification Form**

Chair advised we currently use the New Course Proposal form for recertification of courses. As courses already exist, do we need all of the same information (pre-requisites, etc.)? Do we need a syllabus and the summary? Could we use a checklist? The syllabus gives more information than a one page summary. One of the reasons we recertify courses is to ensure there is no deviation. The summary also helps understand how the assignment fulfills an SLO. Could we reduce the recertification form to one page? Recertification process allows us to determine what students are learning. A checklist would help reviewers. Possibly use a chart to explain the SLOs / Assignment / Assessment. This could be added to the syllabus.

What is the question the recertification process is intended to answer? What is it we want from recertification? We will discuss further next meeting, March 2, 2015.

V. **Transfer of Course Approval Process to Undergraduate Curriculum Committee**

Chair advised the Provost has convened a curriculum review task force to streamline the curriculum review process. One possibility is the transfer the course approval process of general education courses (including WI/SI) to UCC. Chair opened the floor for discussion. What would council do if there were no course approvals? From the SI perspective, this could be problematic as there are already SI courses not really meeting guidelines. This could place a large workload on UCC. Chair advised council would focus more on faculty development – new faculty, workshops, educate faculty as to the intent of general education. Does council feel that approval of gen ed courses should remain with council, rather than UCC? What is keeping faculty from teaching general education courses – is it the course approval process or faculty development? Seems odd to divorce the curriculum approval process from faculty development, could lose the rationale. General Education Council members are educated about gen ed courses and reviewing syllabi, when it comes to development, this is helpful. Is the transfer of new course approvals of to UCC worth pursuing?

Council comments:
- Yes, pursue further, concern about the incredible amount of workload this will place on UCC
- Worth looking at further, should be part of a larger discussion regarding the distribution of the workload
- UCC workload could change, would take no action until the task force finishes their work
- Concern about UCC workload; need discussion on faculty development, a strong general education program is very important.
- Not a good idea to split the course approval and recertification. Approving courses is part of the education, development. Better to have both pieces together
• Increased focus on faculty development is a good thing, not sure that putting new course proposals elsewhere is the way to make that happen
• Would UCC have the same types of discussion regarding courses? UCC is a smaller group and all general education categories may not be represented
• Seems like a bad idea to merge the two committees
• Possible to combine the two committees together (UCC and Gen Ed), would be one less layer. Do not like the idea of splitting course approval / recertification / faculty development
• Need different disciplines represented if combined with UCC, in light of changes with GA
• Gen Ed Council’s role is to oversee the general education program. Could putting the approval process under UCC still allow the Gen Ed Council to perform that role? Moving Gen Ed under UCC would significantly expand the role of UCC. Faculty development is important and a significant body of work for the UCC to take on
Discussion continued concerning the streamlining of the curriculum review process,

VI. Expanding the Council’s Role in Faculty Development

Chair advised there is a possibility of Gen Ed Fellows to assist with New Faculty Orientation, course development, etc. Most general education courses are taught by contingent faculty, which means they are balancing this with other responsibilities. We will discuss further next meeting.

Next meeting is March 2, 2015.
Motion to adjourn (Anderson, Feather).
Meeting adjourned at 3:24 pm.