

GE Committee Minutes
November 19, 2010

Present: Jean Levitan (co-chair), Kathy Malanga (co-chair), Giuliana Andropoulos, Lorra Brown, Sandra DeYoung, Jennifer DiNoia, Carol Granoff, Peter Griswold, Linda Hamalian, Djanna Hill, Rob McCallum, Balmurli Natrajan, Alex Panayides, John Peterman, Julie Rosenthal, Isabelle Tirado, Nancy Weiner, Maggie Williams,

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Malanga at 12:35. The agenda for today's meeting and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved without change.

The following UCC meetings were announced by Co-Chair Malanga:

12/3 (12-2)
12/10 (10-4)

A third meeting in December will likely be needed. Co-Chair Levitan will utilize Doodle to solicit members' availability.

The following meetings with other offices were announced by Co-Chair Levitan:

Basic Skills and Testing: 11/30 (3:00 in Raubinger 208)
Pre-packaging for incoming freshmen: 12/2 (3:00 in Raubinger 208)
Transfer articulation: 12/7 (3:00 in Raubinger 208)

All UCC members are welcome to attend these meetings.

There was extended discussion about differences in formatting among different departments. The consensus was that if the differences were minor, no changes would be requested.

The following courses were approved:

- Philosophy of Religion (unanimous)
- Introduction to Philosophy (unanimous)
- Public Health Research Methods (Writing Intensive - unanimous)
- Healthy U (14 ayes, 1 nay, no absentions, with extended discussion focused on the appropriateness of the course title, and the UCC's role in reviewing course titles. The consensus was that the UCC would not recommend changes in course titles unless there were extreme circumstances. There was additional discussion on the role of the UCC in policing the provision for writing intensive activities and requirements in courses where some of the sections were not writing intensive. The consensus was that the UCC did not intend to review syllabi, and that "more generosity of spirit" was needed in this process).
- Ethical Well-Being (unanimous)
- Introductory Animal Behavior (unanimous, with a recommendation that a note be added to the course description that this course is not designed for non-science majors)

- Principles of Sociology (9 ayes, 4 nays, 2 abstentions, approved with a recommendation for minor revisions)
- Field Biology (unanimous)
- General Chemistry (unanimous)
- Human Biology (unanimous)
- Elementary Statistics (unanimous)
- Basic Business Math (unanimous, with the proviso that Dean DeYoung and Co-Chair Malanga would advise the Department of Math that the term “Basic” would need to be removed from the title, so that there would not be confusion with Basic Skills courses.
- Economic Geography (unanimous)

Co-Chair Malanga announced plans for an Assessment Taskforce with the following members: Kathy Malanga, Jean Levitan, Lynn Orr, Karra Habit, Karen Hillberg, and Jacob Felson. Additional volunteers from the UCC were requested.

At its last meeting, the Faculty Senate did not approve a revision to the provisions in Area 4 Diversity and Justice that would have allowed 200 and 300 level courses to meet the requirements.

Departments will be asked to consider a 31-credit minimum for the UCC. There was extended discussion about the provision for subtracting three courses from the 40-credit requirement. It was pointed out that if 3 four-credit lab science courses were subtracted, this would bring the UCC total below 31 credits. It was decided that regardless of the number of credits in a course, students would only be allowed to subtract three credits per course.

The question of whether a two-credit course can be designated as a technology-intensive course will be referred to the Technology-Intensive Review Panel.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45.

Respectfully submitted: Peter Griswold