

University General Education Council
January 13, 2016, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Adams Center Classroom

Present: G. Straughn, E. Gumm, P. Roggendorff, K. Hendrick, M. Lynn, K. Pamplin, J. Wallace, M. Garver, J. Xu, C. Niccum, R. Ashlock, B. Hammack, N. Santana, M. Smallwood

Absent: K. Pybus, P. Wertheim,

Ex-officios: T. Milholland (T. Lee - absent)

Guests: Susan Lewis, Ron Morgan

The meeting began at 3:33 p.m.

I. Call to order by Eric Gumm.

II. Prayer by E. Gumm.

III. Approval of the minutes from 11.11.15

Motion to approve by K. Hendrick; seconded by J. Wallace; 11 in favor; none opposed; 1 abstention. Motion passes.

IV. Outcomes for new Historical Literacy menu in University Requirements and possible continued inclusion of HIST courses in currently existing menus.

E. Gumm - We actually have two items, so we are going to look at those separately. First we have a new menu for university requirements for Historical Literacy. We need to set what the criteria are so the departments can submit courses to be considered for inclusion in that menu.

R. Morgan – We are happy to have a historical section back in the general education menu. The way this menu was written and voted on is as follows – Add a 3-hour historical literacy requirement (HIST course or Historical Literacy Course in major). Any course that is going to be included on this menu must meet certain requirements. We established a committee with 3 faculty from the History department as well as 3 faculty members with a strong historical focus from other departments. These are the criteria we recommend:

- **Criterion 1** - Students will demonstrate broad knowledge of key historical events, personalities, movements, themes, patterns, and ideas that have influenced human civilizations, including issues of gender and social diversity.
- **Criterion 2** - Students will encounter and analyze primary sources in their historical context.

- **Criterion 3** - Students will discuss broad historical themes of causation, continuity, and change and apply these themes to significant turning points in history.
- **Criterion 4** - Students will recognize and critique the process of historical narrative creation in public memory (i.e. in museums, public memorials, canons, and historiography).

What is not addressed is whether we want to limit this to 100-299 courses or include 300 or 400 level courses. It could be that some department's upper level course would fulfill this requirement.

E. Gumm – Cultural Awareness criteria states that courses on their menu will normally have lower-level numbering and will be open to multiple degrees and not narrowly defined to a single major.

K. Hendrick – Are you taking Art 221, 222? R. Morgan – We haven't decided, we're just using that as an example as a survey course that might be a good fit for inclusion on this menu. Our committee would review and grant a recommendation to UGEC for consideration. K. Pamplin – History and Philosophy of Science – no pre-reqs, would it be considered? R. Morgan – We would expect it to be a good fit, but we would have to judge how much history vs. philosophy. E. Gumm – I think there is a point to be made that this would not be narrowly defined even though it is a 300-level course. K. Hendrick – So a course could be listed in more than one menu? E. Gumm – Yes.

M. Lynn – Looking at your outcomes, especially #2 and #4, do you think all your current HIST courses would fulfill these outcomes? R. Morgan – There might be a couple that would not, especially in regard to #4. We might need to go back and revise our syllabi to ensure that they would meet the new requirements. Other departments could do the same to adjust their current courses to fit with our criteria. G. Straughn – I think #4 is a very strong component and appropriate. K. Hendrick – The library has a large number of primary sources to help with #2. R. Morgan – We also include bibliographies in addition to our texts for primary sources for our courses.

T. Milholland – So are we saying that courses fitting into this menu would adjust their syllabi to address these outcomes, will design measureable outcomes, and be able to submit reports to the General Education office? E. Gumm – Another component that goes along with that is . . . Are we saying a course needs to meet all 4 outcomes, or at least 1, 2, etc.? We do have to be able to measure our outcomes for SACS purposes. We need to assess these courses. As we decide this criteria, keep in mind we will have to provide data on these criteria. R. Morgan – To me it would be the majority of the outcomes. Most of these are important, yet I'm not sure how measurable item 4 in particular would be.

B. Hammock – Will this affect transfers? E. Gumm – We know about our courses, but how about a course taken at another university. R. Morgan – I have no idea. K. Pamplin – I can't evaluate a transfer course based on a three line description summary. There are

no outcomes given. It's not realistic. R. Morgan – I wouldn't want to chase down syllabi, either. J. Wallace – I think transfer equivalency is understood.

P. Roggendorf – There is no ad hoc committee for cultural awareness or the other current menus. E. Gumm – There was a committee that helped design the menus to begin with, but there is no committee that continues to approve courses as we move forward. R. Morgan – And I'm fine with the same situation here – we can get things set up then let UGEC decide future courses being added.

E. Gumm – Do we want to move forward with all these outcomes? And do we want the committee to evaluate or just have UGEC decide.

G. Straughn – I hear a change of “should” to “must” at the beginning of the description of outcomes. And eliminating the final paragraph to dispose of the ad hoc committee for future approvals. K. Pamplin - “Must demonstrate each of”. S. Lewis – Can we add some language into the criteria about measuring the outcomes? G. Straughn – I don't think it should be here. It should be at the top of the page to apply to all menus, not for individual lists. E. Gumm – We can table that for another discussion.

Motion to approve by K. Pamplin with the suggested changes of language (must) and removal of last paragraph of Historical Literacy Outcomes document; seconded by C. Niccum; all in favor; motion passes.

E. Gumm - The next question is the role of HIST courses in the Social Science menu.

R. Morgan – We started looking back at the documents, and the language of what we voted on and what was discussed is slightly different. If we are focused on flexibility and transferability, it makes sense to continue offering HIST courses in both menus. We voted to keep the Social Science menu unchanged, which already includes HIST courses, so no action is required there. Due to inconsistent phrasing, faculty voted to remove HIST courses from the Cultural Humanities menu when adding the Historical Literacy menu. But in other places it says to keep the Cultural Awareness menu as it currently exists (and it currently exists with HIST courses included). We need to make sure there is not ambiguity, and it is good for students to have multiple options for their courses.

G. Straughn –I want to apologize for the miswording, since that was my responsibility. I think this is worth discussion because we are looking for maximum flexibility for students. R. Morgan – I would love for our top students to have a place to put their extra credits. E. Gumm – The Social Science component is already approved. I think we can remove that from the proposal. So the vote of the faculty removed 4 courses from the Cultural Awareness menu because of the wording. R. Morgan – This vote was mainly about the CORE, not about history. It was one of many items in a vote that was primarily about something else. E. Gumm – I don't think we want to limit ourselves to just the 4. There could be an additional course added later. As the General Education Council, are we making an adjustment to the document we voted on or not? K. Pamplin – We don't have the authority to undo a faculty vote. But we do have authority to add these courses to the menu. I would feel much better if we don't attempt to undo the vote,

but use our authority to add them back through the normal process of resubmitting the documents, or we could just reapprove those courses since we know they were already approved in the past. G. Straughn – I think that is a simpler solution.

E. Gumm - So we will remove this item from the current proposal and submit a separate proposal for including the 4 HIST courses for inclusion on the Cultural Awareness menu.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.