

# GEN ED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 10, 2009

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Present: Anita Hufft, Byron Brown, James LaPlant, Sheri Gravett, Jane Kinney, John Gaston, Kent Moore

Absent: Brian Gerber, Kristina Cragg

## 1. Area B updates:

James LaPlant's office gathered Perspectives course data for 2006 – 2009.

The first handout listed the names of all instructors who taught a Perspectives course during this time frame, what course they taught, and what semester they taught it in.

- OASIS instructors taught PERS courses most often.
- No Kings Bay data was included in these handouts.

The second handout listed the courses that were offered during this time frame, the number of sections offered, how many total seats were available, and how many seats were filled.

➤ The top seven courses were:

1. 2730 Internet Technology w/ 47 Sections and 1119 seats filled
2. 2380 Arts Perspective w/ 27 Sections and 907 seats filled
3. 2210 Women's Voices w/ 29 Sections and 721 seats filled
4. 2695 World Music Cultures w/ 17 Sections and 560 seats filled
5. 2560 AFAM Music Culture w/ 10 Sections and 547 seats filled
6. 2390 Music in Film w/16 Sections and 539 seats filled
7. 2710 Exploring Success w/21 Sections and 516 seats filled

➤ There's no area that courses are not offered in.

The third handout showed how many Perspectives seats were filled overall during each semester during this time frame.

- ❖ A downward trend in number of seats filled per year was noticeable on the handout. The GEC voiced concerns about this as enrollment has been growing. Data will be reviewed concerning course substitutions, the number of faculty lines that have remained vacant due to hiring freezes, and number of full-time non-tenure track instructors hired. The A&S office will break down the instructor list by status of faculty.

The GEC discussed different possible ways of building a better Area B.

- Offer broader range of credit hours instead of only 2 credit hours each
- Offer super sections that are partly or completely online
- The QEP may create PERS courses that deal with undergraduate research

John Gaston asked if the PERS courses that students are taking coincide with their majors. James LaPlant agreed that this would be good information to know, but his office isn't adequately staffed to conduct this vast amount of research.

## 2. Rubric for PERS syllabi

Sheri Gravett provided a draft of the rubric for assessing the collected syllabi, explained the assessment points, and then asked for comments or suggestions.

- James LaPlant suggested looking at reading load.
- Byron Brown suggested looking for what disciplines are mentioned in the syllabus. Is the 'interdisciplinary' component obvious?
- Jane Kinney suggested tallying the number and types of written assignments.

## 3. Core Curriculum Faculty Meeting in Fall 2009

- Sheri Gravett suggested having this meeting during the Opportunities Fair in the fall. The meeting would include:
  - \* Discussion of special needs of core instruction
  - \* Reports on the pilot assessment program and recognition of faculty leaders
  - \* Examination of the core as a unit, rather than individual courses
  - \* Discussion of resources that are available for faculty teaching the core courses
- The Council agreed that this would be an excellent opportunity not only to help new faculty learn the about efforts in developing/improving the core, but for the current Pilot Project participants to disseminate their information, and for experienced faculty to offer ideas or suggestions and start considering expanding the assessment project into their own classrooms.
- Suggestions for the meeting:
  - \* Have a combination of presentations and break-out groups
  - \* Have SP 09 Pilot Project Faculty Teams give 5-minute presentation on their projects
  - \* Break attendees into groups by Outcome Area (so they're learning what they need to know for their own courses)

- \* Invite the Kings Bay faculty to get them involved
  - \* Set up Table Leaders to keep faculty on task during the meeting's break-out sessions
- Sheri Gravett pointed out that it's important for the Gen Ed Council to provide a leadership role for the faculty and to provide a context for the Pilot Project.
  4. The Council discussed whether breaking the Council into subcommittees would be effective. Sheri Gravett noted that with subcommittees, more members could be added from different areas of the University—i.e., the library, Student Affairs, students, etc. The Council decided to wait on this issue until getting feedback from the Core Curriculum Faculty meeting.
  5. The Council decided to invite both the spring '09 and fall '09 Pilot Project Faculty Teams to the April GEC Meeting to share information. The meeting place will be announced in the near future through email.
  6. The next GEC meeting will be March 31 at 9:30 a.m. in the Bailey Science Center, room 3026. Council tasks for the next meeting are:
    - Look at the PERS syllabi for coherency and consistency
    - Sheri Gravett will research a room to reserve for the Core Curriculum Faculty Meeting
    - Think about how to get faculty involved in the core curriculum and what resources they'll need
    - Continue thinking about ideas for the Core Curriculum Faculty Meeting
  7. Meeting adjourned at 10:40.

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