

GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 29, 2004
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
101 Whitehurst Conference Room

Present: Jonathan Comer, Joe Fowler, Jeffory Hattey, Nigel Jones, Debra Jordan, Pamela Lumpkin, Brenda Masters, Barbara Stoecker, Susan Weir, Mark White, Elizabeth Williams, Gail Gates

1. General Education Designation Request:

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & NATURAL RESOURCES

AG 3080 – Agriculture and Natural Resources of Thailand, request "I" designation, one-time only, effective Spring 2005. **Tabled pending clarification of writing assignment.**

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

PHIL 3920 – Contemporary Issues in Philosophy: Environmental Ethics, request "H" designation, one-time only, effective Spring 2005. **Approved "H", effective Spring 2005.**

PHIL 3920 – Contemporary Issues in Philosophy: Creation and Evolution, request "H" designation, one-time only, effective Spring 2005 (December intersession). **Denied "H" for lack of information on syllabus about writing assignment.**

PHIL 3920 – Contemporary Philosophical Problems: Philosophy of Film, request "H" designation, one-time only, effective Spring 2005. **Denied "H", because the syllabus does not indicate that the course fulfills the writing requirement.**

PHIL 4943 – Indian Philosophy, request "H,I" designations, effective Spring 2005.
Sept. 21, 2004 - Tabled pending clarification of writing in the course and concern with upper level prerequisite. **Denied "H,I" because of the advanced subject matter and the form and syllabus do not have the same information about the writing assignment.**

PHIL 4953 – East Asian Philosophy, request "H,I" designations, effective Spring 2005.
Sept. 21, 2004 – Tabled pending clarification of writing in the course and concern with upper level prerequisite. **Denied "H,I" because of the advanced subject matter and the form and syllabus do not have the same information about the writing assignment.**

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

MGMT 4613 – International Management, request "I" designation, effective Spring 2005.
Tabled pending change in prerequisite to allow non-business majors to enroll in the class.

2. **Assessment Report – Jeff Hattey**

Jeff Hattey gave a summary of the 2003 General Education Assessment Report. The General Education Assessment Committee uses the following guidelines to assess the effectiveness of Oklahoma State University's general education program:

- The process must not be aimed at individual faculty members, and departments
- The process should be led by faculty members, and faculty participation should be voluntary
- The process should use student work already produced in courses, and
- The process should assess all undergraduates, including transfer students, because general education outcomes describe qualities expected for all OSU graduates.

The committee developed a written communications rubric that is being used throughout the University as an effective assessment tool. Several years of data show that writing by seniors is better than by freshman. The committee also developed rubrics for Math and Natural Sciences. Artifacts from 2002-2003 were studied and the committee found that artifacts from some courses could not be evaluated using the rubrics so artifacts from a few lower division math and science courses were used. It is not clear if the other courses do not meet the general education criteria and goals, if inappropriate assignments were submitted, or if the rubrics do not measure performance on the criteria and goals correctly. The General Education Assessment Committee is developing of a rubric to assess critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Jeff concluded by saying that many 2 year institutions have developed and are utilizing writing rubrics but few institutions implement math and science rubrics. Jeff noted that once the committee develops the analytical thought rubric OSU would truly be at the frontline of assessment.

Members of the General Education Advisory Council discussed if all students who complete general education were expected to demonstrate basic competencies (such as math skills learned in college algebra), or if all students should continue improving their skills throughout their undergraduate education (e.g. writing skills of seniors should be better than freshman), or should we expect basic competencies for some general education goals and continued improvement for other goals. The General Education Assessment Committee believes that all students should continue to develop some skills (e.g. writing) but for other areas (math, science) most students are required to complete only introductory courses.

3. **Other Business**

Revising Gen Ed Course Form – Brenda Masters
The general education online form is being finalized.

Plans for Review of "S" and "S,I" Courses
The committee will begin review of the "S" and "S,I" designations in Spring 2005. Dates will be determined as soon as the online form becomes available

Adjourn: 4:50 p.m.