

## **General Education Committee Minutes**

**March 4, 2013**

**2:30-4:30**

**LIB 475**

### **I. Opening Remarks**

The following voting members were present: Nancy McCormick, Georganne Ross, Laura Dubek, Ed Kimbrell, Skip Kendrick, Douglas Timmons, Craig Carter, Chris Herlihy, Dwight Brooks, Terri Tharp,

Ex-Officio: Sheila Otto, Jan Leone, Mark Byrnes, Susan Myers Shirk (for James Beeby), Jeff Hoyt

Absent: Aimee Holt, Deana Raffo, Nate Phillips, Charlene True\*, Heather Lambert\*, Dennis Powell, Horace Johns, Kari Neely, Rosalyn Brown (student), Kelley Benson\* (student), John Omachonu (ex-officio)

### **II. Approval of minutes: Meeting on September 28, 2012**

### **III. TBR decision to reject new General Education course proposals**

World Food Issues and CJA were both rejected (without comment) by TBR. The assumption is that neither course was broad enough in scope. WFI might be revised and proposed as a course satisfying the Natural Sciences requirement.

### **IV. Responsibilities of the committee, director, and provost**

Members received a flowchart illustrating the approval process for new curriculum proposals. An accompanying document clarified that both the general education committee and the director of general education are "advisory only."

### **V. General Education Teacher of the Year Award**

Ten teachers (from a total of eight departments) have been nominated for this year's award. No revisions to the current guidelines or selection process were suggested. One member urged the award committee not to place particular emphasis on the student evaluations.

### **VI. Sub-Committees**

The Assessment Committee will meet on April 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-2:30 in the Cope conference room. The Policies and Procedures Committee will meet to select the teaching award recipient on April 5<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4 in the Cope conference room. Members of both committees will receive the appropriate materials to review prior to the meeting.

**VII. Proposals for New General Education Courses**

Committee members received the approval guidelines for new General Education courses. Philosophy intends to submit a proposal for "Religion and Society" (Social and Behavioral Science).

**VIII. New Initiatives**

In response to whether we need any new General Education courses, members raised concerns over whether students purchase, read, and otherwise engage with their textbooks. Members debated whether technology is distracting or enhancing the learning environment and process. Sheila Otto made the point that the current general education outcomes mention technology only once. One member called D2L "a Communist force." Another recommended everyone read Al Gore's book on technology and culture.

Sheila Otto highlighted upcoming workshops at the LT & ITC.

Members expressed little interest in a special topics general education course or a general education interdisciplinary seminar modeled after the honors lecture series.

**IX. Adjournment: 3:45 p.m.**