

General Education Committee
Meeting Minutes for November 08, 2019

Committee members attending: Janis Brickey, Lando Carter, Joey Gray, Ryan Korstange, Kevin Krahenbuhl, Aliou Ly, Steve Lewis, Theresa McBreen, Tammy Melton, Greg Nagel, James Piekarski, Deana Raffo, Karen Reed, Connie Schmidt, Laura White, John Zamora

Ex-officio members attending: Peter Cunningham, Leah Lyons, Susan Myers-Shirk, Steve Severn

General Education Design Team members attending: Michelle Boyer-Pennington

SGA student representatives attending: Samuel Blumer

Guests attending: Ann McCullough, Kari Neely, James Pettigrew

- **Call to order.** Aliou Ly called the meeting to order at 2:20 PM.
- **Announcements and reminders.** Aliou explained that at our next meeting (Nov. 22) we will hear the English and Math assessment reports. Pending the committee's decision regarding new course proposals, we will also discuss new course proposal FL 1000 at the next meeting.

Peter Cunningham wanted to clarify an issue from the last meeting. He stated that he and Susan have a difference of opinion regarding interpretation of policy. His understanding is that new course proposals do NOT need to come to the committee for an initial vote before going out the full faculty for their input, and then coming back to the General Education committee for a second vote. After which, Peter must send it on to the Admissions & Standards Committee (which answers to Student Affairs) for their approval.

Approval of minutes from October 25, 2019. Tammy Melton pointed out an error: her name is listed twice. Minutes were approved unanimously, conditional on this one correction.

- **Update on status of course approval procedure.** Susan Myers-Shirk led this discussion. As Peter discussed earlier, there is some question regarding the policy on new course proposals. Susan stated that we would use the procedure as it is currently presented on the website in evaluating FL 1000. Going forward, however, we will need to clarify the policy. As such, the goal for today is to discuss FL 1000, decide if we want to open it up to the public for consideration between now and 11/21. At the 11/22 meeting, we will make our final decision regarding its approval.
- **Discussion of course proposal, FL 1000.** Dr. Kari Neely and two colleagues (Dr. Ann McCullough and Dr. James Pettigrew) were present on behalf of the Foreign Language department. Kari gave a short summary of the proposal. She stated that this course could fill an interest for the many students in Bachelor of Science programs who never get a foreign language class. Although this class is not a traditional language acquisition course, it gives students global exposure through an appreciation of how language shapes us. Each of these three faculty would teach a portion of the class in the same manner, and then fill in from the perspective of their language discipline (ex. French).

The committee members began to ask questions. One member questioned why this class would be grouped under social sciences and not the humanities. Kari responded that the course would emphasize quantitative analysis through the use of reporting tools such as frequency graphs and tables; also the course approaches the subject through the lens of anthropology, giving the subject matter a social sciences perspective. Another member commented that the content seemed advanced for freshmen; Kari responded that the content would be scaled to the freshman level. The committee wanted to know if each section would be listed such that the language focus of the particular section would be evident to students; Kari responded yes. The committee asked how frequently the course would be taught, and Kari responded that probably 3-4 sections would be offered per semester.

The committee then voted on the proposal, with the results being: 15 approved, 2 were opposed, and 2 abstained. The proposal therefore was given approval to move forward for public comment. Susan said that she would ask the MTSU faculty to send their comments to an email box, and these comments would be shared with the committee.

There was some discussion about the subsequent procedural step for the proposal. Susan said she would get clarification on the process, to determine whether the proposal would have to go through Admissions & Standards. A motion was made to follow the policy as it is currently in place on the website, but to note the committee's objection to sending approved course proposals to the Admissions & Standards committee. A vote was taken on this motion, with 16 approving and 1 against.

- ***Discussion of procedure for awarding the Outstanding General Education Teaching Award.***

Aliou asked Susan to give some background regarding this item's discussion. Susan explained the historical method for soliciting nominations for the award. She then went over some recommendations from last year's committee regarding possible improvements to the procedure. Joey Gray described the online portfolio system in D2L used by the Outstanding Teaching Award committee, and offered to set up a similar system for this award. A motion was made to include the rubric in the materials distributed to award applicants, as well as using the electronic portfolio system that Joey volunteered to put together. The committee voted unanimously to approve this motion.

- ***Any new business.*** There was no new business. The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 PM