

GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

9 February 2006

Council Members Present: Bryon Clark (Chair), Jane Elder, Steven Emge, Dick Hackett, Debra Haley (appointed to replace Patty Pool), Brad Ludrick, Linda Kallam, Steve McKim, Sharon Morrison, Dan Benco (proxy for John Topuz), Chip Weiner (*ex-officio*), Cherry Wilmoth

Council Members Absent: Gleny Beach, Betty Clay, Jim Cunningham, Gene Hetzel, Nancy Hill, Shannon McCraw, John Mischo

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 by the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed. A misspelling of Dr. Weiner's name was noted for change. Dan Benco moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Dick Hackett seconded. The vote was unanimous to accept.

The Chair then distributed copies of a memo previously sent to Academic Council outlining proposed policy changes in General Education for their consideration and approval. Items 1 and 2 were approved unanimously by Academic Council as written. The Chair noted that a 2.00 GPA has been a long-standing policy and these items simply confirm an on-going commitment to that policy.

Item 3 was also passed unanimously as written by Academic Council. This officially makes computer proficiency a part of General Education requirements.

On items 4 and 5, Academic Council proposed a friendly amendment to add at the end of each the phrase "at Southeastern Oklahoma State University." Without that addition, this item could conceivably pose a problem for students transferring in from two year schools. Dick Hackett moved to accept the proposed changes to items 4 and 5. Debra Haley seconded. The council passed the proposal unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding the particulars of item 2 (computer proficiency). Debate centered around how many times a student may be allowed to take the proficiency advanced standing test and whether results would be posted as credit to the transcript (they currently are not). Final consensus was that a student would be allowed to take the proficiency test only once and the grade and credit would appear on the transcript. This standard will apply to new students beginning in the Fall 2006 semester. Students starting college before that date would be grandfathered in. Linda Kallam moved to accept the standard; Brad Ludrick seconded. The Council voted unanimously to accept the standard.

Item 6, the proposed requirement that students earn at least a C grade in essential skills courses, was refused by a vote of 8-6 in Academic Council. The Chair suggested that rather than combining all courses together in a package, each category of courses (English, Communication, Math, Computer skills) be presented separately to Academic Council for their consideration. A question arose regarding transfer students from two year schools, especially those with which SOSU has articulation agreements. It was determined that if a transfer student does not have a C or better, under the current agreements, SOSU cannot require the student to retake the course. Also, if the student has an associate's degree from a two year school, general education requirements are waived. Therefore, only if a student does not have an associate's degree can SOSU require him/her to retake the course. Dick Hackett moved to send recommendation #6 back to Academic Council as written, even though they have already voted in opposition to it. Debra Haley seconded. The council voted in favor of the motion by a vote of 7 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstaining.

Dan Benco presented material from Jim Speers regarding plans for BIM 1553. The Council determined that BIM 1553 can be made a program requirement for computer proficiency. Current policy allows for requiring higher standards for specific programs than for general education.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 2:00 in M205. The meeting was adjourned.