

GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
19 April 2005

Council Members present: Bryon Clark (Chair), Gleny Beach, Betty Clay, Jim Cunningham, Jane Elder, Steven Emge, Dick Hackett, Linda Kallam, Brad Ludrick, Shannon McCraw, Steve McKim, John Mischo, Sharon Morrison, John Topuz,

Council Members absent: Gene Hetzel, Patty Pool, Charles Price, Cherry Wilmoth

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by the Chair. Brad Ludrick moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Jim Cunningham seconded. Linda Kallam pointed out an omission of a word that needed to be inserted. The minutes were approved unanimously as amended. (Note: the correction has been made on the official record of the previous minutes. jae).

The Chair asked for any feedback from the departments regarding civic engagement. There were none of note. However, the Chair pointed out that this element has been mandated for inclusion somewhere in the curriculum, although not necessarily in the general education component.

The Council then commenced consideration of the submissions of the various departments for assessment procedures. First up was Physical Science. Steve McKim presented some general comments. He stated that the department planned to use a national standardized test. He acknowledged this could be a problem if SOSU students score below the national average. Dick Hackett moved to approve the Physical Science submission. Linda Kallam seconded. A question was raised regarding potential costs associated with the use of a national instrument. The Chair appraised the Council of the fact that funding for such would probably be available either through the assessment office through Dr. Weiner or from the general education funds. Dr. McKim noted that the department planned to test all eligible students rather than a sample. The Council voted unanimously to accept the Physical Science submission.

Dr. Ken Chinn was present to clarify the Economics proposal that had been tabled at the previous meeting. Dick Hackett moved to take the proposal off of the table for consideration. Gleny Beach seconded and the Council unanimously approved the motion. Dr. Chinn indicated several passages that were included for his own edification and could be deleted. Items C2 and C3 were amended to include five major social institutions: economics, politics, education, religion, and family. Dr. Chinn noted that all eligible students would be assessed rather than a sample. The Council voted to approve the Economics submission with the changes noted.

English was next considered. John Mischo lead the general discussion, stating that assessment would be done through an analysis of student essays. A sample of 50-60 will be chosen in the fall semester and about 25-30 in the spring semester. Two to three essays will be chosen randomly from each section of the class and a faculty committee will do the scoring. The Chair suggested that the faculty committee undergo some training to assure consistent application of the rubric. The Chair also commented on the future need to consider how we will assess Honors

sections as well as web-based courses. Dick Hackett questioned whether three categories of rating (high, proficient, low) were sufficient. Dr. Mischo felt that they were. Dr. Hackett moved to accept the assessment proposal for English 1113 and English 1213. Linda Kallam seconded. The Council voted unanimously to approve.

Dr. Mischo then led a general discussion of the Humanities proposal. The plan is to use instructor-produced objective exams as pre and post tests to be compared to determine improvement. Gleny Beach moved to approve, Dick Hackett seconded, and the Council voted unanimously to approve.

English 3893 and English/Humanities 2313 were then considered. Again a sampling procedure will be utilized. The Chair suggested a sample of at least 30. Steven Emge moved to accept, Jim Cunningham seconded, and the Council voted unanimously to approve.

Ethics outcomes were addressed by the submission for Philosophy 2113. The Council felt that an attitude survey could be used to measure tolerance. Dick Hackett moved to accept, Shannon McCraw seconded, and the Council voted unanimously to approve.

A question arose during the discussion of Spanish 1113 as to whether the Novice High rating category was sufficient. Since that is the requirement for an education degree, the Council was satisfied that it was sufficient. There was some debate as to what should be the goal of the Spanish class – diversity or communication? Brad Ludrick moved to accept and Linda Kallam seconded. Dick Hackett then moved to table while clarification of the goal is sought. Gleny Beach seconded and the Council voted unanimously to table.

Gleny Beach addressed additions to the Visual Arts proposal. Dick Hackett moved to accept the additions and Sharon Morrison seconded. The Council voted unanimously to approve the additions.

Shannon McCraw presented the Communications proposal. He stated that the entire eligible population would be surveyed rather than a sample and that some benchmarks still needed to be established. Dick Hackett moved to accept, Jim Cunningham seconded, and the Council voted unanimously to approve.

The next meeting will be May 3 at 3:30 at a location yet to be determined. Since this will be the last meeting of the semester, the Chair asked all committees to have reports to the Council. The Council will also consider tabled items as well as the HPER submission. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.