

GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

6 April 2006

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

Council Members Absent: Gleny Beach, Debra Haley, Gene Hetzel, Nancy Hill

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 by the Chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were presented. Brad Ludrick moved to accept the minutes as written. Dick Hackett seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Vickie Hudson, Chair of the HPER Dept. was in attendance. She distributed copies of a memo from VP of Academic Affairs Jesse Snowden addressed to the Registrar, Kristie Luke. In the memo the VP directs the Registrar to accept military credits for students at Tinker Air Force Base in lieu of HPER 1113, a general education requirement. This was done unilaterally without any consultation with either Chairperson Hudson or any member of the General Education Council. Ms. Hudson would not have even been aware of the substitution but for the fact that the Registrar forwarded the memo to her as a courtesy. Historically course substitutions have been determined by the various department chairs rather than the Academic VP.

The Chair asked Ms. Hudson if the Tinker classes currently being substituted for HPER 1113 fulfilled the learner outcomes for that course. Ms. Hudson said they did not, as they were classified as activity courses whereas HPER 1113 is a wellness course. The two are not equivalent. Members of the Council expressed concern that this precedent if allowed to continue could be expanded to put any or all courses at risk for the same treatment. They felt this was a direct assault on faculty ownership of curriculum. They also noted that when unpopular decisions were made last fall by Dr. Snowden regarding the management of internet courses, protests by both the faculty and the deans fell on deaf ears in the Academic VP office.

Brad Ludrick asked if our sister institutions are accepting Tinker credits in lieu of HPER general education requirements. Ms. Hudson stated that she did not know. She did, however, state that activity courses can be counted towards an HPER major, but for General Education, the course must be classified as a wellness course. Dick Hackett then questioned whether anyone should be able to get gen ed credit for an activity class if Tinker students can. To not do so might be discriminatory.

The Council's greatest concern is that the Tinker classes do not meet the goals or learner outcomes for HPER 1113 from the newly developed assessment plan. They also felt both Faculty Senate and Academic Council should be made aware of this situation and have input into it.

Linda Kallam moved that a memo be drafted expressing the Council's concerns and disseminated to the members for final approval. The memo should first address the issue of what assurances the faculty has that the Tinker courses are equivalent with the standards set forth for general education credit, and second request a meeting between VP Snowden, the General Education Council Chair and the Chair of the HPER Department to address this issue. Dick Hackett called the question. The Council approved the motion unanimously with no abstentions.

The Council then took up the document entitled "Assessment Matrix, Level of Implementation." The Chair explained that he would be meeting with each department chair who offered general education courses for evaluation using the matrix. Several suggestions for changing wordings were suggested. The

Chair noted that those items marked with an asterisk were required to be at least at a Level 3 by the next accreditation visit in 2013. A summary of the information gathered from this assessment document will be included in the annual assessment report that goes to the State Regents. The Chair also asked Council members to remind their faculty to be certain to collect data at the end of the semester from their classes for inclusion in the annual assessment report as well. The Chair reported that a General Education website is in the process of being developed which will have the assessment report on it when available.

Attention then turned to the General Education Exit Survey. The plan is to have the students take this survey during their final semester before graduation as part of the graduation process through the Registrar's office. Hopefully it will eventually be on-line and they students will be able to access it from a computer in the Registrar's office. Implementation target date is Fall 2006. Brad Ludrick, who has spearheaded the construction of this instrument, asked the Council members to read over it and submit any changes they feel necessary no later than Monday, May 1, 2006.

The next meeting of the Council will be Thursday, May 4, 2006, at 2:00 in M205. The meeting was adjourned at 3:12.