ASU General Studies Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 31, 2010
3:00–5:00 p.m.
Ira A. Fulton Foundation Center – 2nd floor- room 2490

Present: Craig Allen, Rebecca Barry, Karen Bollermann, Debra Campbell, John Chance, Ron Dorn, Barbara Fargotstein, Chouki El Hamel, Chair, John Hepburn, Achim Herrmann, Karen Leong, Matthias Kawski, Barbara Lafford (by phone) Phyllis Lucie, Peter de Marneffe, Ron Roedel, Joe Rody, Jeff Ricker, Julia Sarreal, April Summitt, Mike Tueller, Kathy Wigal

Excused: Alejandra Elenes, Cecelia Fiery, Antonio Garcia, Kristin LaCroix, Doug Spencer

Guest: Tracy Geiger – Graduate Student from ATAO

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes—April 27, 2010

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

Vice Provost, John Hepburn attended the GSC meeting, welcomed new and returning council members, and thanked the council for their continued dedication and commitment to the students of ASU.

4. Old Business

There was an official vote to elect Chouki El Hamel as new chair of the GSC.

The motion to approve the appointment of Dr. El Hamel was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.
5. **New Business**

Dr. El Hamel welcomed new and returning GSC members. Dr. El Hamel discussed with council members the need to review and amend (if needed) GSC Policies & Procedures, as well as other policy and curricular issues.

Discussion will continue at the next GSC meeting.

6. **Subcommittee Reports**

   **A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry (Barbara Fargotstein)**
   
   None

   **B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS) (Joe Rody)**
   
   None

   **C) Humanities, Fine Arts & Design (HU) (Doug Spencer)**

   *From ASU*

   **Approved** for HU designation, effective Spring 2011 (new):

   - HST 494 Conquest and Encounters in Colonial Latin America (additional information received – course approved)
   - TCL 494 Queer Performativity
   - MHL 342 Music History II

   **Revise and Resubmit**

   *From ASU*

   - *IAS 194 Food 4 Thought*
     
     *Rationale:* The committee found that this course is very interesting and meets the spirit of the HU designation. That being said, the petitioner did not include a TOC, and pending this correction, the committee has decided to return this course with a recommendation of revise and resubmit. If the petitioner can provide a TOC, then the members are willing to approve the course as is.

   - WPC 294 My Life Venture
     
     *Rationale:* The committee has sincere concerns about this course. The submitted documentation does not point to how each criterion is met. Additionally, the committee has no access to the course reading, and the course does not address critical thinking in its current submission; an aspect which is critical in securing the HU designation. This course needs substantial reworking to be considered for the HU designation.
D) Social and Behavioral Sciences (John Chance)
From ASU
Approved for SB designation, effective Spring 2011 (new):

SBS 194 Food Politics

E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG) (Ron Dorn)
From ASU
Approved for SQ designation, effective retroactive Fall 2010 (new):

GLG 106 Habitable Worlds

F) Cultural Diversity in the United States (Barbara Lafford)
From ASU
Approved for C designation, effective Spring 2010 (new):

TCL 494 Queer Performativity

Revise & Resubmit
From ASU

USL 210 Service Learning: Independent Placement

Rationale: The course’s main objective does not specifically mention US minority groups: “The central objective of this course is to provide students with community experiences and reflection opportunities that examine community needs, the importance of civic engagement, and social justice issues in contemporary American society.” Although some iterations of this service learning experience may give students a good understanding of cultural diversity in the US (if the particular instructor teaching it chooses to focus on the experience of specific US minorities), the course is not structured in such a way as to guarantee that understanding every time it is taught (e.g., there is too much room in the syllabus for different instructors to take the course in another direction). For instance, the sparse course readings seem to consist of only two required articles (one on race and the other on the achievement gap, which seems to focus on the effects of poverty more than relations among minority groups) with only one of the three recommended articles focusing on US minority experiences (Rubenstein-Avila, 2006). While there does seem to be much discussion of and reflection on the marginalization of US minorities, this course lacks an “in-depth” treatment of one or more specific US minority groups and could just as well focus on the marginalization of recent immigrants or the elderly in the US; neither of these last two groups mentioned are cited by the “C” criteria. As a result, we are not recommending a ‘C’ designation for this course.

G) Global Awareness (Debra Campbell)
From ASU
Approve for G designation, effective Spring 2011 (new):

SBS 194 Food Politics:
HST 494 Conquest and Encounters in Colonial Latin America

Revise & Resubmit
From ASU

LSC 394 Environmental Disasters

Rationale: The issues addressed by this course are clearly global in nature, but we questioned whether they were clearly “cultural” issues, as required by our requirement 2d. The course’s only claim to address culture came briefly, in a one-week component at the end of the course, and did not seem to be well integrated to the course’s purposes. We deemed this to be insufficient.

H) Historical Awareness (Jeffry Ricker)
From ASU
Approved for H designation, effective retroactive Fall 2010 (new):

HST 494 History of Fascism in Europe, 1900-45

Approve for H designation, effective Spring 2011 (new):

IAS 194 Food 4 Thought

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie