ASU General Studies Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 25, 2011
3:00–5:00 p.m.
Ira A. Fulton Foundation Center – 2nd floor- room 2490

Present:  Alejandra Elenes, John Chance, Ron Dorn, Barbara Fargotstein, Cecelia Fiery(by phone),
Joseph Foy, Chouki El Hamel - Chair, Matthias Kawski, Karen Leong, Phyllis Lucie,
Peter de Marneffe, Jeff Ricker, Joe Rody, Doug Spencer, Mike Tueller, Kathy Wigal

Excused:  Craig Allen, Karen Bollermann, Rebecca Barry, Debra Campbell, Antonio Garcia,
Kristin LaCroix, Barbara Lafford, Ron Roedel, April Summitt, Julia Sarreal

1. Call to Order
   The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes—November 23, 2010
   The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements
   None

4. Old Business

5. New Business
   None

6. Subcommittee Reports
   A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry (Barbara Fargotstein)
      From ASU
      
      Approved for L designation, retroactive effective spring 2011 (new):
      TWC 361  Writing for Health Care Management
Approved for L designation, effective fall 2011 (new):

PHY 334 Advanced Lab I

Revise and Resubmit:

FMS 440 Los Angeles: Movies and Culture

Rationale: While this course looks to meet most of the Literacy & Critical Inquiry criteria, the first criterion appears to be lacking. Criterion 1 requires that at least 50% of a grade in the course should depend upon writing, including prepared essays, speeches, or in-class essay examinations.

This course is worth a total of 500 points, but only two writing assignments are worth a total of 200 points (100 points each). Class attendance, participation, and weekly 10 question quizzes compromise another 200 points. The final exam is worth a total of 100 points (T/F, multiple-choice, short answer, fill in the blank, and essay questions).

Clarification is needed re: whether or not the essay questions make up the requisite 50+ points of that 100 point exam in order to meet criterion #1 to qualify for Literacy designation.

B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS) (Joe Rody)

None

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

From ASU (new)

Request to Revise and Resubmit:

AFH 364 Unruly Voices

Rationale: I wish this application was more specific in where we might find the details for each criteria instead of the copy-pasted general statement "Syllabus: course objectives and examples of text provided." I also think the connections being made under 4b are a little nebulous. Since six texts and several shorter readings are being used, I'm not sure why only two of them are referred to when addressing criteria 4b & 4d. This doesn't make it seem as though those criteria are a "central and substantial portion" of the course content. I suspect that other texts fit into this, but the applicant hasn't taken the time to identify how this is so.
AFH 459 Studies in African American/Caribbean Lit

Rationale: Proposer needs to be more specific in where we might find the details for each criteria instead of the copy-pasted general statement "Syllabus: course objectives and examples of text provided."

D) Social and Behavioral Sciences (John Chance)
From ASU

Approve for SB designation, effective retroactive spring 2011 (new):

TCL 304 Transborder Research Methods

Approved for SB designation, effective fall 2011 (new):

WST 340 Gender, Science and Technology

E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG) (Ron Dorn)

none

F) Cultural Diversity in the United States (Alejandra Elenes)
From ASU

Approved for C designation, effective fall 2011 (new):

AFH 364 Unruly Voices

Request to Revise and Resubmit:

AFH 459 Studies in African American/Caribbean Lit

Rationale: This course provides a comparative perspective of US African American and Caribbean literature. Two of the five books assigned are focused on African American literature. There are additional supplemental readings with a US focus. It is possible that 50% of the course is US focused. However, it is not entirely clear how all the readings are used in the class. For example, the readings for Week 13 “The African Diaspora” are not outlined. The committee would like to have clarification on the readings to ensure that the course does fulfill the criterion for the “C” designation. We also want to suggest clarifying the focus of the course in the goals and how the comparison between US African American and Caribbean literature is addressed in this course.
G) Global Awareness (Mike Tueller)
From ASU

Approved for G designation, effective fall 2011 (new):

WST 365: Women and International Health

Deny:

WST 340: Gender, Science, and Technology

Rationale: This course addresses a cultural issue on either a comparative or a synthetic basis (thus directed toward our qualifications 2c or 2d respectively). To meet either of these requirements, however, a course must have more than 50% non-US content, and this course fell well short of that standard.

H) Historical Awareness (Jeffry Ricker)
From ASU

Deny for H designation (new):

WST 340 Gender, Science and Technology

Rationale: The proposal was not completed adequately: the third column on page 3 provided no detailed evidence of how the course meets the four criteria for Historical Awareness. Instead, the subcommittee members were directed only to look over the syllabus, course content, learning outcomes, etc. Nevertheless, it is clear from the material included that history is not a major focus of this course (Criterion 1). Instead, the material demonstrates that WST 340 has primarily a contemporary focus with occasional forays into discussions of historical issues. In order to be awarded the H designation, significant course revisions would need to be made, such as including books, articles, class meetings, and assignments focused on delineating the development of gender and science over time.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie