

UMW General Education Meeting

October 28, 2024

2:00-4:00 in 243 James Farmer Hall

Minutes

In attendance: Angela Pitts (Chair), Paul Fallon (Secretary), Ian Finlayson

Ex officio: Brian Ogle (Registrar, along with Asst. Registrar Reina Hammer), and, via Zoom: Debra Schleeef (Assoc. Provost for Institutional Analysis)

1. Call to Order at 2:02 p.m.
2. Next Meeting: December 2, 2024, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in 243 James Farmer Hall
3. Recommendations from Faculty Handbook Revision Committee and the UFC for changes to the Gen Ed Committee:
 - 3.1. The Committee (with previous input from Suzie Kim) voted against option 3 to merge with FSEM, and to maintain the current size of 5.
 - 3.2. Committee members argued unanimously that 3 is too small given the needs for different levels of seniority and college representation. They voted that the current 5 is a good number.
 - 3.3. Regarding ex officio members:
 - 3.3.1. Registrar: The Committee voted to continue to include the Registrar.
 - 3.3.2. Admissions: In the past, gen eds are important for when Admissions recruits. The Gen Ed Committee voted to keep the status quo for Admissions ex officio, and that Admissions may continue to attend or send a representative or skip the meetings based on the particular agenda items.
 - 3.3.3. Associate Provost for Institutional Analysis: This position was not questioned by the Faculty Handbook group, but the Committee affirmed the continuing membership of this position.
 - 3.4. Regarding the new charges on “general education designations for transfer courses, including equivalencies for AP, IB, CLEP, and other courses of study”. The Committee discussed the various charges in detail with member Ogle. Review applications for gen ed designations for transfer courses, including AP, IB, CLEP, and other courses. Brian Ogle understands if a course is on the VCCS list, then if there’s a new course, the Registrar will consult with the department. If it is equivalent to an approved methods course, then it will automatically satisfy the methods requirement.
Regarding the charge to add AP, IB, CLEP: If there is a new AP exam, a department might not have the equivalent course, but could give credit or Gen Ed. A department is not authorized to fill a small gap--this would be across the board approvals. Such cases would probably originate with the Registrar’s office, which would then reach out to the department, then the Gen Ed Committee. The Committee acknowledges the new charge given by the UFC (8/26/2024 email from Davis Oldham).
[The chair later this day emailed Faculty Handbook Chair Davis Oldham the Committee’s response].

4. Demonstration of the Request for Re-Evaluation e-form for transfer credit (Brian Ogle). Brian could put this on the web in two weeks for immediate use. Reina Hammer is using eforms. Brian showed the routing of form in a flowchart. It always starts with the student, then goes to Patricia Sarkuti, who then decides the routing, or it gets automatically routed.
5. Designation Requests
 - 5.1. SPAN 320: Topics in Hispanic Culture (GDP).
 - 5.1.1. Unanimously approved.
 - 5.2. RELG 101: Introduction to World Religions (GDP)
 - 5.2.1. Unanimously approved.
 - 5.3. CLAS 318: Ancient Slavery and its Legacy (GDP)
 - 5.3.1. Unanimously approved.
 - 5.4. IDIS 196: Applying for Opportunities Abroad (AMW)
 - 5.4.1. Unanimously approved.
6. Transfer Credit Re-Evaluation Requests
 - 6.1. Sarah Eshbach: BIOS 126: Environmental Science (Northampton Community College) for Natural Science with Lab GE credit. Note--the application form states that it was a 3 credit course, but the syllabus states it was a 4 credit course. Unanimously approved.
7. Motion to adjourn 3:09 p.m.