Members Present:
B. Melzer-Health Professions
J. Fischer-Student Rep
F. Blevens-Fine Arts and Comm
T. Hindson-Liberal Arts
M. Hennessy-Liberal Arts
B. Stone-Applied Arts
V. Sriraman-Science
V. Luizzi-Chair Rep
C. McCall-Education
R. Northcutt-Science
L. Thomas-Health Professions
J. Crawford-Chair Rep
B. Brown-Liberal Arts
M. Johnson-Education
D. Showalter-Business Admin
Guest: Ron Sawey

Members Absent:
D. Perkins-Applied Arts
J. Ross-Business Admin
T. Mottet-Fine Arts and Comm

Meeting convened at 3:30 p.m.

R. Brown asked the Council to review the minute’s form the April 8th meeting.
Corrections:
Paragraph 19, line 2 (Parliamentary Laws-Robert Rules says reconsideration can only be brought forward by someone voting on the prevailing side. It was a vote to suspend our policies. She was upset because we were not following our policies).

Motion:
R. Brown asked for a motion to approve the minutes with the above-mentioned correction from April 8th. M. Johnson so moves. M. Hennessy seconds the motion. The April 8th minutes are approved pending the above mentioned corrections.

The purpose of this meeting is to have the Council reexamine its decision to not include Physical Geography as a natural science course if a motion is made to do so.

Motion:
B. Stone asked for a motion to accept the subcommittees’ original decision and not reexamine the Physical Geography proposal. B. Melzer seconds the motion.

Discussion:
B. Brown told the Council there were two issues to deal with concerning the Physical Geography proposal. The first is the equity issue. He has heard that it is important for SWT to be special and be special in how it does things. We have students call up who have taken Physical Geography at another institution and it transfers here as a natural science. We have students who take Physical Geography here and other institutions take it as a natural science when they transfer. We need to think about the equity of that and what our motivation is to be extremely special.
The second issue is we looked at Physical Geography and it was problematic for people from the beginning. When going through the proposal process initially it seemed that questions were being asked of Physical Geography that weren’t being asked of the other courses going through the process at the same time? The Council has said that maybe it needs to go back and review the others. It is my belief that the scrutiny was not equally applied.

B. Melzer told the Council that when the subcommittee was reviewing the proposal packets the other two courses had complete packets. The subcommittee in an effort to be objective allowed Geography time to redo the packet/forms and bring it in again.

The subcommittee reviewed the science requirement for other institutions and found the other institution to have a stronger Math and Science bases than SWT. They also require higher levels in Math and Science for admission and for hour requirements. SWT is not equal in requirement as these other institutions so they were not used for what they were charged with doing on the subcommittee. These issues were a consideration for all the courses when the subcommittee was reviewing them.

B. Brown asked if it was true for other institutions as well as UT and A&M for the higher level of Math and Science requirements.

B. Melzer told the Council they would have to review the original information about the natural science and math requirements to determine exact institutions.

B. Stone told the Council that the vast majority of institutions do not accept Physical Geography as a natural science.

M. Johnson asked the Council if Physical Geography was ever considered a natural science at this institution in the past. He said that before advising centers the departments advised and determined to accept Physical Geography for the natural science.
R. Brown told the Council that Geology was taught in Geography and at one time it was accepted in Geography as the additional science in Liberal Arts.

T. Hindson asked if the BA people could determine if Physical Geography counted as a natural science and make it acceptable for BA requirements.

R. Brown told the Council they probably could. Geography could request those departments that offer BA degrees to accept Physical Geography as the additional science.

R. Northcutt told the Council that it depends on the major or minor of degrees in science on whether or not it could be accepted as a science. The department that offers the BA or the Deans that have BA majors would have to determine this. It has nothing to do with the General Education Council or the institution General Education.

B. Stone asked how CS 1308 got approved and if it went through the Curriculum Committee.

R. Brown told the Council he didn’t know the process, but Dr. Ali probably submitted a proposal and it filtered through the system.

M. Hennessy asked if the BA has additional requirements on top of the General Education.

R. Brown told the Council that Bas have an additional 3 hours literature and additional hours of Math or Science requirements.

V. Sriraman told the Council that Dr. Passty asked the science chairs and faculty their opinion about the inclusion of Physical Geography as a natural science course and 5 responded unanimously that they were not in favor of its inclusion.

M. Johnson asked if they gave any reasons.

R. Northcutt told the Council one reason dealt with the applied aspect of the course and another reason mentioned was the thought of SCH.

B. Brown asked the Council if there was documentation of this because it was the first he had heard of this.

R. Northcutt told the Council that he asked his assoc. dean to poll the science chairs and faculty for their responses.

V. Luizzi told the Council he wanted to put on the table that he thinks the curse fits reasonably into what we created when we accepted Anthropology and Astronomy.
C. McCall told the Council that the definition of the natural science component they created for this review process states…the objective of the study of a natural science component of a core curriculum is to enable the student to understand, construct and evaluate relationships in the natural sciences, and to enable the student to understand the bases for building and testing theories. As we stated before it was the knowledge bases for natural science and Physical Geography was applied.

R. Northcutt told the Council that in the fall we would be looking at all the courses in the natural science component including one we acted on positively and negatively. It is hopeful to return with a firmer or clearer definition for the natural science component and what we are going to expect in this component.

Motion:
A motion is made that Physical Geography be rejected as a natural science, which is affirming the Councils other decision.

For: 11  Opposed: 2  Abstained: 1 (M. Hennessy)

Meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.