

General Education Council
4.8.02
Minutes

Members Present:

J. Fischer-Student Rep
F. Blevin-Fine Arts and Comm
L. Thomas-Health Professions
V. Luizzi-Chair Rep
V. Sriraman-Science
R. Northcutt-Science
M. Hennessy-Liberal Arts
B. Brown-Liberal Arts
B. Melzer-Health Professions
T. Mottet-Fine Arts and Comm
B. Stone-Applied Arts
J. Crawford-Chair Rep
J. Ross-Business Admin

Members Absent:

D. Perkins-Applied Arts
D. Showalter-Business Admin
C. McCall-Education
M. Johnson-Education

Meeting convened at 3:34 p.m.

Motion:

R. Brown asked for a motion to approve the minutes from March 25th. B. Melzer so moved. R. Northcutt seconds the motion. The March 25th minutes were approved as prepared.

R. Brown told the Council that the Geography Department protested the Councils' decision to not recommend GEO 2410 (Physical Geography) to be added to the natural science core curriculum. The Geography Department would like to know specifically where their proposal did or did not meet the guidelines set forth. They also feel that R. Brown appointed a subcommittee that was hostile.

R. Brown explained that Geography's challenge alters the normal procedure of the sub-committee making a recommendation, then the Council votes and finally R. Brown takes the Councils' recommendation forward.

B. Brown told the Council he thought that R. Brown said something like, who does not already look favorably on this course or something with similar meaning because I can't remember the specific words, when appointing the subcommittee.

R. Brown asked the Council as a whole to please review the materials presented by Geography. The materials are also available for review in ASB 108 on Sarah's bookcase. Please review all the Geography materials before the next meeting on April 22.

R. Brown told the Council that he told B. Brown that he could not serve on the subcommittee because it was his department with the proposal.

B. Brown addressed the packet of materials that was duplicated and hand delivered to the Council members the prior week. The pages that were badly highlighted and hard to read represented other natural science courses that are too applied.

V. Sriraman told the Council that in relation to the laws of nature those applications of physics and chemistry, they are not saying that they do not show applications. For example, in Physics 1310 the mechanics don't require another science to do applications.

B. Stone told the Council that the 2000 Memo that Geography presented addressed the definition of applied issues, but the definition of the natural science component is clearly stated in the second sentence of that definition.

B. Melzer said the subcommittee tried to remain as objectives as possible and look at all the data presented.

V. Sriraman asked for clarification about the motion passed saying that if a proposal was turned down they could not bring it back before the Council for two years.

R. Brown told the Council that they were reviewing GEO 2410 again because allegations were made and a formal complaint was issued. R. Brown told the Council that the important thing was to get their guidance for where they have concerns, review those concerns and bring those back on the 22nd.

T. Mottet asked if it would be useful to show how other sciences do work as natural sciences and GEO 2410 does not?

R. Brown needs a recommendation this semester from the Council. If GEO 2410 is approved it will be reviewed again when we review all the other natural science courses.

B. Brown told the Council that with the number of materials the Council received it was not on the same level of criteria reviewed as Astronomy. The day Physics, Anthropology and Geography visited the Council, Astronomy didn't turn anything in.

B. Melzer clarified that the Council approved the natural science component and corresponding grid for completion by anyone wanting to get a course added to the natural science core curriculum. That grid was created to address all questions before approval for a course in its perspective component. The grid was presented to the subcommittee as requested.

R. Northcutt told the Council that Geography submitted two proposals. The labs were thin in content in the first one and we made them aware of that. They changed the content of the course, which resulted in two separate proposals. The first was not strong and the second still has problems. We are looking at the data from the course already in place. If the course is restructured we have to review that new data.

B. Stone remembers that at that first meeting that R. Brown asked who would be willing to serve.

B. Melzer told the Council she was offended that they have to reconsider this again. 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).

J. Crawford asked if the vote is against would we have to look at it before the two years?

R. Brown told him the rationale for the two year wait is to allow people to make changes and appropriate data to be collected after changes are made.

R. Northcutt doesn't want the Council to have to clean up and make a course better repeatedly after a poor quality course was turned in originally. This will cause the Council to deal with courses over and over and not get any other business done.

B. Blevens asked if the Council review the proposal again and upholds the past decision is it possible that other action could override that decision up the line?

R. Brown told the Council all he does is take the Council recommendation forward.

Motion:

The Council members that were present do not support the contentions of any irregularities in the appointment in the original course review subcommittee.

F. Blevens seconds the motion.

6 in favor, 1 opposed and 6 did not vote because they were not present at the meeting referenced in the motion

J. Fischer asked if David Butler was still available to answer questions? He is the department liaison and can be reached at 5-7977 or DB25.

We meet in two weeks on April 22nd.

Meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.