

General Education Council
Minutes
10.22.01

Council Present:

L. Thomas-Health Professions
M. Hennessey-Liberal Arts
R. Northcutt-Science
R. Hindson-Liberal Arts
B. Stone-Applied Arts
F. Blevens-Fine Arts and Communication
D. Hazlewood-Science
D. Showalter-Business Admin.
M. Hamilton-Education
S. Beebe-Chair Rep.
B. Brown-Liberal Arts
V. Michalk-Alt.

Council Absent:

J. Crawford-Chair Rep.
D. Perkins-Applied Arts
J. Ross-Business Admin.
C. McCall-Education
T. Mottet-Fine Arts and Communication
B. Melzer-Health Professions
J. Fischer-Student Rep.

Meeting convened at 3:37 p.m.

The council members reviewed the agenda and R. Brown asked for any additional topics to be added. PPS 1.12 was modified last fall with changes allowing . We will have a new student representative on the council by the next council meeting that should attend on a regular basis.

R. Brown presented a request from the Academic Advisors. That request is as follows:

Dean's Request that Natural Science courses be unblocked:

Issue: At the present time students enrolled in the non-major natural science courses are required to complete both courses in the same science (BIO 1320 and 1421; CHEM 1310 and 1430; PHYS 1310, 1320 and 1110).

Proposal: Students must complete at least 2 Natural Science Component courses, one of which must provide a laboratory experience.

If adopted, this proposal would change the current requirement to permit students to complete any approved 3-hour science course (BIO 1320, CHEM 1310, PHYS 1310, 1320, 1340 or 1350) with any laboratory science course (BIO 1421, CHEM 1430, ANTH 2414). In Physics completion of the appropriate separate laboratory courses 1110 or 1140 would make PHYS 1310 or 1320 and PHYS 1340 or 1350 a laboratory science course.

Effect: All SWT native students will complete at least two Natural Science Component courses, one of which must include an appropriate laboratory experience.

Rationale: In spring 2000, the GEC approved Astronomy (PHYS 1340, 1350 and 1140) and Physical Anthropology (ANTH 2414) as additional courses which meet the Natural Science Component of the General Education Core Curriculum requirement at Southwest Texas State University. For these to become viable options for students, they need to be allowed to link with our 3-hour courses for non-science majors. In a related matter Dr. Passty, Associate Dean of Science, agreed that students transferring to SWT could enroll in any of our non-major sequences and complete the introductory course to pair with a laboratory or non-laboratory science course from the former institution. Finally, in spring 2001 Liberal Arts Council recommended and CAD and VPAA Gratz adopted the recommendation that the B.A. degree requirement no longer include the requirement that "four semesters of work in at least two of the departments of biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, philosophy (logic) and physics, provided two of the semesters are in the same laboratory science." (2002-04 Catalog, p. 67)

Discussion:

R. Northcutt told the council that the Chair of the Chemistry Department was opposed to allowing students to take natural science courses in two different disciplines because the chemistry courses are linked. The Dean of Science had mixed feeling about not having the block on the natural science courses because this would allow students to shop around for classes and not benefit from having all the necessary background that is gained from the way the block allows for now.

B. Stone asked whether the council could say to block or unblock a department's requirement?

R. Brown told the council that as long as they have a lab they are fulfilling 7 of the 8 required natural science hours.

R. Northcutt told the council that the change in the some of the course from lab classes to non-lab classes was due to the university lack of laboratory space. If this block were removed it would potentially cause SCH problems and deletion within the departments or school of science.

B. Stone told the council that we can not change the curriculum required by the department and so there would still be a block.

R. Brown told the council that the Dean of Liberal Arts unblocked the natural science courses for the Bachelors of Arts to better serve their students needs. The advisors wondered if it made since to continue to block other students. B. Stone mentioned that the General Education Council did not have a rule or policy that would allow us to made a decision to unblock these courses.

T. Hindson asked the council if they are allowed to mix and match natural science courses as long as they have a lab? R. Brown told T. Hindson not in the old days. T. Hindson said the new rules for the BA allows them to mix and match the natural science courses, but it not clear what the applied guidelines are from the old General Education guidelines or requirements. B. Stone said it was because the departments block those classes as part of the major requirements. R. Brown told the council that under the new guidelines the advisors effectively allow 3 and 4-hour courses under the BA rules.

B. Stone told the council that the change was just in the BA and had no effect on the general education council.

S. Beebe asked if the advisors where having uncertainty on how to advise students to take natural science especially with only the one Anthropology course in that component? He asked if we could recommend or ask the departments to consider unblocking the requirement to have both courses in the same science, but we can't make them unblock them.

B. Northcutt told the council that we could not step in and tell the Deans how to make decisions on interpreting their degrees. He asked if there was any way to see what core curriculum was being excluded on degrees? R. Brown told the council that Dr. David Nelson was currently working on a project that included monitoring which general studies or core curriculum courses are waived by Deans and which majors frequently waived core courses for students if there are any in the random sample.

B. Brown asked if a matrix for BA and BS natural science requirements could be configured to hand out to advisors campus-wide to alleviate confusion and incorrect advising.

S. Beebe stated that the council could not take any action or make any policy today on this issue.

R. Brown said he would work on B. Brown's request for a natural science matrix. He said he would send a memo out to department to let us know what the department decision is and the deans can take it up with the college if they wish to make changes concerning the block.

M. Hennessey asked if a transfer student transfers in with 42 hours and has 2 non-laboratory classes are they exempted as fulfilling the natural science component? R. Brown told the council the Deans decided on a 46 or near hour core and the Coordinating Board approved that. The advisors use the algorithm created to match the students courses with the 46 hour core, but if they are lacking hours they look for speech communication (3 hours), literature or philosophy (050) and PE or US 1100 (090). If the transfer student has completed all the above listed requirements they have completed our requirements for the core under the Coordinating Board requirements. If they

transfer in with more than our 46 hours they are automatically exempted from our core requirements.

M. Hennessey would like to know the logic of taking US 1100 after 40 hours? R. Brown told him special transfer sections have been created to address transfer needs.

Note:

- Create matrix for Advisors

Other issues for this year:

- Profile of faculty teaching US 1100
 - how many are part-time, faculty, staff
 - how many are teaching more than one section
 - how are they evaluated
 - how many years (semesters) they have taught US 1100 including this year
 - what is the common syllabus like
 - what percentage of students are taking US 1100 that are graduating (100 % native freshman and transfers unless they have the (090) institutional option from another university
- D. Nelson will report on which courses are being waived for graduates and which majors those students are
- Decide which departs are on review this year to look at in the Spring (Science, LA or FA)
- Check for unified syllabi

We will not have a meeting next week. The next scheduled meeting is Nov. 12th.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.