

General Education Council Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2015
3:00pm, JCK 880

Attendees: Brown (Chair), Dedek, Erhart, Feakes, Hanks, Harney, Hindson, Lochman, Meritt, Russian, Wilson, Cathy Lamm (Administrative Assistant)

Absent: Burns, Carter, Davidson, Downing, Friedman (retired), Hamilton, Moczygamba, O'Neal (ex), Passty, Rivero (ex), Supancic, White

Guests: Heather Galloway, Manda Anderson, Micky Autrey

Brown circulated a get-well card for Council members' signatures for Passty.

Director of Curriculum Services, Micky Autrey, discussed a proposed placement of the General Education Core Curriculum information in the new electronic catalog. The two key changes will be to move GECC from its current location to the front page between General Information and Degree and Program Information so it is easily located, and to create links in each of the college department sites that connect to the core curriculum so that everywhere there is a reference to the core curriculum, a simple click will take the user to this section of the catalog. Autrey also recommended replacing the course number with the name of the course. Council members liked the changes with a few minor adjustments, especially for English 1310 and 1320. Autrey reiterated that these changes will elevate the core and be more specific with the choices students can take. Autrey asked Council members to forward to her links for inclusion in the catalog, and reported that the online catalog will go live on June 16, 2015.

The minutes of May 18, 2015 were then presented for approval. A motion to approve the minutes of May 18, 2015 was made by Hanks, seconded by Russian. Motion passed unanimously.

The proposed Honors College courses for fall were then reviewed, and Supancic's notes were distributed in his absence.

- Honors 2301B, Writing Yourself into Academia: Creating Portraiture – Dean Heather Galloway reported that the first draft of the Honors College rubrics for General Education had been completed. After review by the Council members, Galloway reported that she would make all corrections indicated in Supancic's notes. Manda Anderson stated that in terms of software capability, it shouldn't be a problem to get it to count for either (1310 or the honors course; or 1320 or the honors course). A motion to reapprove 2301B as an additional course in the Honors catalog was made by Hanks, seconded by Wilson. Motion passed unanimously.

Brown advised Council members to send any grammatical/formatting issues on any of the proposed courses to Galloway to correct.

- 2304B, Eating Animals in America – Galloway advised this course will not be a substitute for the other two Philosophy courses. The Council had no other

comments. Hanks moved to approve 2304B as an additional course in the Honors catalog with the incorporation of Supancic's edits, and in all cases Supancic's edits are affirmed, seconded by Wilson. Motion passed unanimously.

- 2305B, Women and Texas Music – It was recommended that the professor should come up with a real teamwork assignment to fulfill the core requirement. Both the course and its assessment require inclusion of the Coordinating Board's objective for "teamwork." Hanks moved to approve 2305B as an additional course in the Honors catalog contingent upon receipt of teamwork assignment from the professor, seconded by Wilson. Motion passed unanimously.
- 2306B, Baseball and the American Experience – Feakes inquired if this course would conflict with History courses since it is not designated which two courses to take. Galloway advised that it probably won't be a conflict because the Honors College doesn't offer many Honors 1310 History courses because not many students take it. Autrey stated she might be able to program a statement in Degree Works stating that students cannot get credit for another course taken with the honors course in the same subject (i.e., Chem 1310 and 1341). Feakes stated it should be a departmental decision as to which classes count. Brown advised it is a greater issue with English than with History, but he will ask Dr. Brennan if they definitely want an admonition about taking both courses. The Council will consider approving with Dr. Brown discussing with Mary whether she wants to exclude a course like a 1320 for a 1310. Erhart questioned that number 2, personal responsibility, on the form was not tied to baseball, but it was decided there were several baseball scandals that would cover this area; however, it might be best to add Baseball to this section. A motion was made to approve this course as an additional course in the Honors catalog, seconded by Erhart. Motion passed unanimously, conditioned upon including the word "baseball" in number 2, personal responsibility, and Brown discussing with Mary the exclusion of courses as referenced above.
- 2306C, America in the 1960s: A History of Movements and Ideas – Hanks moved to consider this course as an additional course in the Honors catalog, seconded by Wilson. The Council had no comments. Brown moved that this course be approved, contingent upon checking on some issues. Motion passed unanimously.
- 2309C, Great Ideas: Humanities I – Hanks moved to consider this course as an additional course in the Honors catalog, seconded by Wilson. A question arose whether this course falls under 090 or 040 and it was confirmed that it falls under 090. It was noted the course would be taught by Morris and Makowski. There being no opposition, motion passed unanimously.
- 2309D, Magic Realism in the Works of Gabriel Garcia Marquez – Hanks moved to consider this course as an additional course in the Honors catalog, seconded by Russian. Lochman advised a student is required to take 3 hours of sophomore literature, and it is not evident that this course fulfills that. He noted that students

earning a BA have to take a second literature class. Questions arose as to how it would be communicated to students that the class is available for a requirement for a BA and whether it should be a core class or advanced class. There were concerns the class would become an issue each semester as to whether it was core or honors. Lochman stated that, looking ahead, there needs to be discussion on changes and implications on future courses like this. It was stated that the Dean could sign off on every single class. It was suggested that it might be better to use the class as a substitution versus classifying it as a core class. There being no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

- 2309E, Preserving Humanity in the Face of Conflict: The War Genre. The Council noted that this course was recommended for inclusion in the optional category. Russian moved to consider this course as an additional course in the Honors classes, seconded by Rivero. There being no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Brown then advised that almost all courses have their assessment audits completed, but that Science had several remaining. Wuest will distribute to the Council for review when all have been completed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Feakes, seconded by Russian. Meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.