

General Education Council Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2015
3:30pm, JCK 880

Attendees: Brown (Chair), Bible, Burns, Erhart, Feakes, Friedman, Hamilton, Hanks, Harney, Hindson, Meritt, Moczygemba, Passty, Russian, Supancic, White, Wilson, Cathy Lamm (Administrative Assistant)

Absent: Carter, Davidson, Downing, O'Neal, Rivero

Guests: Heather Galloway, Diann McCabe, Beth Wuest, Debbie Thorne, Micky Autrey

Brown thanked everyone for coming. All present introduced themselves. Jon Bible reported that he will substitute for Rivero this spring, Meritt will replace O'Neal for the spring meetings, and Burns returns in place of Farris.

The minutes of November 24, 2014, were presented for approval, contingent upon the changes requested by Supancic. Feakes moved that the minutes of November 24, 2014, be approved, seconded by Friedman. Motion passed unanimously.

Brown gave an overview of how the honors courses would be established for core curriculum. Supancic moved that the Honors College topics courses forms be approved as a block, seconded by Hanks. Further discussion followed.

Brown asked that if approved, will the changes be done in "track changes" and Galloway and McCabe advised they will just keep comments vs. posting. Friedman inquired if topics header courses can only be offered a certain number of semesters and it was established that they typically were, but Micky Autrey advised there are some exceptions.

Supancic stated there needed to be standardization with the honors courses and not done haphazardly. Heather Galloway advised that classes in the past have always been approved by chair of faculty members' departments, which will allow for standardization of approval process. It was reinforced that courses with the new Honors numbers will follow the guidelines, as every course will have to be approved by the Gen Ed Council.

Galloway stated that assessments will be done by Honors, but will be reviewed by the Gen Ed Council. Galloway also stated that they are looking at eventually creating multiple classes and assessments modeled for assessment purposes on the Association of American Colleges & Universities Value Rubrics similar to state standards, with assessments being done by Honors faculty and staff.

Supancic noted that the course description in Box 6 on form 2301A almost duplicates the header course and inquired if that description really reflects what the course is since they are so similar. Supancic also noted that the description for

2301A (Writing to Change the World) is also in the topics header course and feels there needs to be a variation consistent with the component area in the core. Moczygemba agreed that each one of the course descriptions needs to stand on its own and not state the same description as the topics headers. Galloway informed they can reword to be more distinctive and will remove the duplicative language.

Supancic, Wilson and Hamilton raised specific concerns that will be addressed by Galloway and the Honors College before the meeting of the University Curriculum Committee on January 30.

Supancic asked for an assurance that the changes recommended would be incorporated and Galloway assured the GEC that the changes would be incorporated. Friedman called the question, and the motion passed unanimously.

Brown presented the issue raised by academic advisors of allowing Texas Core Coded classes 081 and 021 (under the pre-2014 state core curriculum) to default to the new 090 (Institutional Option) category. Council members asked that this issue be deferred to the next GEC meeting on February 9.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.