

General Education Council
Minutes
3.25.02

Members Present:

V. Luizzi-Chair Rep
B. Stone-Applied Arts
L. Thomas-Health Professions
T. Hindson-Liberal Arts
V. Sriraman-Science
R. Northcutt-Science
C. McCall-Education
B. Brown-Liberal Arts
F. Blevens-Fine Arts and Comm
T. Mottet-Fine Arts and Comm
J. Fischer-Student Rep
B. Melzer-Health Professions
D. Showalter-Business Admin

Members Absent:

J. Crawford-Chair Rep
D. Perkins-Applied Arts
J. Ross-Business Admin
M. Hamilton-Education

Meeting convened at 3:37 p.m.

Motion:

R. Brown asked for a motion to approve the minutes from March 4th. R. Northcutt so moved. C. McCall seconds the motion. The March 4th minutes are approved as prepared.

Sub-committee action:

The committee carefully discussed all aspects of the proposal submitted by the Department of Geography requesting that Geography 2410 be recommended as a Natural Science component course.

Motion:

A motion was made by B. Stone and **seconded** by B. Melzer that the sub-committee recommend that the General Education Council disapprove the request from the Department of Geography to include Physical Geography 2410 as a Natural Science component course.

(VOTE: 5 yes, 1 no)

Rationale for vote:

The proposed course does not meet the General Education Council's approved definition as a Natural Science Component course; instead of

providing fundamental information that provides “the knowledge base for a number of applied disciplines...” the information presented in this course appears to be **applied** and, thus, does not meet the definition of **providing** the knowledge base on which the other disciplines can make application.

Dr. Luizzi, speaking for the minority view of the sub-committee, brought out that the Council has already extended the definition of a natural science to include Astronomy and Physical Anthropology. These courses create a likeness class of which Geography 2410 is reasonably a member.

Discussion:

- Are both Anthropology and Geography applied?
- Looks like an applied science and we close the door—when under review it is a basis for action already taken
- Geography brought documents to the sub-committees attention with the updated information we requested and letter of purpose in favor of including Geo 2410 as a natural science
- Being an applied science does not meet the approved definition and we shouldn't compound the problem by accepting more that do not meet the definition
- When other natural science courses are under review then action can be taken for those that do not meet the definition
- When we looked at it before it did not meet the definition and is not a foundation course—I believe the council shouldn't have approved Anthropology, but two wrongs don't make a right
- We will go back and re-review Anthropology and Physics after one year
- Review the content of all the science courses and decide what all information we want to review
- We could have them do the form (natural science component table) for all courses
- Look at definition
- Dr. Passty finds the proposal “reasonable”
- Take into account the impact this course will have on other natural sciences and give those departments the opportunity to come forward to make comments
- It is part of the Council members responsibility to take the information back to your college
- The inconsistency of the subcommittee was to go back and redo others that might not meet the definition
- There has been no growth so far as to what people are taking in those approved (Anth and Phys)
- A number of majors specify certain courses

Motion passes 10 for and 3 opposed.

Motion:

B. Stone recommends reviewing the syllabi for natural science, mathematics and fine arts from each department. We will give them a statement of the definition and the natural science table-format to fill out. The Council will review each to see if they still meet the definition.

R. Northcutt seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.