

GERTF Meeting February 19, 2007

Present: J. Ambrose, L. Severin, J. Cohen, A Dupont, M. Carter, S. Ash, K. Esbenshade, M. McCord, C. Freeman, J. Hawkins-Morton

Meeting began 9:12 a.m.

Minutes approved with changes: Add under discussion heading that "We discussed Chris Anson's suggestion that writing/speaking be made a separate category."

Writing/Speaking (W/S) Discussion:

Discussion centered around strengthening the recommendation on advance writing/communication.

Integration of W/S into courses throughout the curricula and not just through one course is the goal. Some departments will choose one course and may not integrate throughout curricula. Incorporate W/S into existing courses if possible. What is the process? Will require faculty cooperation to reach this goal.

M. Carter will talk with Chris Anson about the revised wording to strengthen the language for writing/speaking. Associate Dean's would sign off. Should paragraph have language about Assoc Deans review in it?

Suggestion to keep assessment separate from GER language for writing/speaking.

CUPR was the committee that assessed the W/S within a curriculum. UCCC does not.

Mike, Jo-Ann and Laura will work together in consultation with Chris Anson to develop a statement for W/S recommendation and bring back to TF at next meeting.

W/S Implementation:

Resources needed to assist with W/S integration into programs. Suggestion was made to ask Provost to hire personnel to assist faculty with integrating writing speaking. Chris Anson could assist colleges in integrating W/S. Some are using this resource and some are not.

Additional Breadth Category – Visual and Performing Arts:

With GER reduction in hours there are two opportunities to take VPA courses. Should VPA be in additional breadth category? STEM will only be allowed to select VPA under additional breadth. CHASS would take a STEM course.

CHASS would require VPA in curricula. Management and some TEX curricula are the only curricula that may not require an ARTS piece. Feeling is that VPA should not stand alone as an Additional Breadth Category.

Interdisciplinary Perspective Category Discussion:

Is the TF comfortable with keeping the IP category the way it is or changing? Should VPA be added as a third component to fulfill IP? VPA suggested 3 categories for IP- STEM or HSS or VPA. Committee feels that VPA courses are not necessarily interdisciplinary and should not be alone as category to meet IP.

Courses will be evaluated for the IP. Can we allow students to have an IP that does not have a STEM/HSS perspective? Want cultural piece and science piece in IP course. Does it have to be between Science and Humanities only? Are the courses different enough if take HI and REL to be interdisciplinary? Some members felt IP courses should include STEM/HSS perspective and that we don't want to lose the STS piece. Faculty and students support the STS requirement. One of the two courses must bridge the disciplines and there is a need to push students to get exposure and experience.

To maintain flexibility in the future, TF does not want to divide category into STS and then another IP. Need to think more about what these courses are that will make up the IP and what constitutes interdisciplinary. Need to develop the language in the IP category to be clearer and better articulate the objective. Perhaps review rationale used by other Universities.

Flexibility is needed in this category so it is not too restrictive and students just check a course off a list. Look at objectives of IP -ability of students to synthesize knowledge and skills across different areas and gather information and communicate to others.

Dr. Severin described a cluster model used by Arizona for IP courses. This model pairs up two courses and faculty move between the paired courses and spend 2 weeks in the other's class as lecturer. Students are enrolled concurrently. Could pairing qualify to meet IP category? Yes, if one piece is from different side of aisle. Would have to write this in the proposal to allow this clustering to occur. Implementation strategy.

Allen Dupont will work on the language for IP category to present at next meeting.

PE/Healthy Living:

Delay PE discussion until March Krotee can attend.

PE/Healthy Living – suggestion was made at meeting to leave the PE category as it is currently and not to change the way it is right now. Effort should be put into the other changes/categories being proposed.

Other:

TF agrees that FYI is valuable program but FYI courses are not necessarily interdisciplinary.

CHASS's counterproposal will be discussed at next meeting. Interested in expanding FYI program.

Meeting adjourned 10:29. Submitted by Catherine Freeman.