

GERTF Minutes: 2/13/07

Present: J. Ambrose, A. Dupont, L. Hunt, J.H. Morton, C. Zelna, L. Severin, M. Krotee, K. Esbenshade, S. Burnette, J. Lavelle, J.Cohen, S. Ash.

Guests: Chris Anson, English prof. & Director, Campus Writing and Speaking Program (CWSP); Maxine Atkinson, Director, First Year Inquiry Program (FYI) & associate prof.; Randolph Foy, Associate Director, Department of Music.

Dr. Ambrose opened the meeting at 3:10 p.m. He welcomed the Task Force members and introduced the guests for today's meeting (Chris Anson, Maxine Atkinson, and Randolph Foy).

Moved to approve the minutes from January 12, 2007. Motion passed and minutes were approved unanimously.

Chris Anson, English prof. & Director, Campus Writing and Speaking Program (CWSP), began the discussion with a brief history of how the campus writing and speaking program was started at NC State: also described how this allowed programs to choose methods of assessment and how they evaluation writing in their curriculum.

Discussion:

Anson voiced his concern that the current draft of the GER proposal is too weak in the support of writing and speaking in the curriculum.

- ❖ Recommends stronger language in the proposal that addresses endorsing the vision of writing, speaking and communication within curriculums.
- ❖ Discussed Chris Anson's suggestion that writing/speaking be made a separate category.

Randolph Foy, Associate Director, Department of Music, then spoke to the task force concerning the discussion of the NC State Arts recommendation for incorporating the visual and performing arts into the proposal.

Discussion:

- ❖ Concerned that arts are collected into the Humanities and Social Sciences category.
- ❖ Original suggestion would be that any student could take a Visual and Performing Arts course as their additional breadth course.
- ❖ Concern was expressed that this would allow students outside of the STEM disciplines to not have to take as many math and science courses.

Maxine Atkinson, Director, First Year Inquiry Program (FYI) & associate professor, spoke to the task force briefly about FYI.

Discussion:

- ❖ Request to allow the Interdisciplinary Perspectives (IP) category to include FYI Courses.
- ❖ Briefly discussed that FYI is a pedagogical approach while the IP is a category.
- ❖ Also discussed the fact that to be an FYI course, it has to also be on a GER list, thus allowing it to count as IP course would be double-counting within the GER, which was previously agreed as something that could not be done in the new proposal.

The Task Force members also discussed the PE and Healthy Living option. Some members argued to leave the PE requirement as it currently stands. Others suggested expanding the category to allow other courses to be included, such as nutrition courses or courses that lead students to life-long health practices. Members also noted that courses currently counting in the PE category address healthy living issues (PE 100 courses).

Also Dr. Dupont mentioned the Collegiate Learning Assessment Test (CLA) that allegedly measures student critical thinking. There is a possibility that all of the UNC system Institutions would use this test next year and the results would be public.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Melissa McConnell.