

GERTF - Monday, April 2, 2007

Members: J. Ambrose, A. Dupont, J. Spurlin, M. Carter, J. Lavelle, L. Severin, K. Esbenshade, J. Cohen, J. Picart, C. Freeman

Meeting opened at 3:35 p.m.

Minutes:

Motion was made to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously.

- 1) Additional Breadth: Ask the Task Force to consider the “Additional Breadth” statement that was attached to the minutes. Discussed the changes that have been made to the Additional Breadth statement.
  - Suggestion to revise the last sentence “As many programs do not neatly fall into...”
  - Suggestion to have an Additional Math and Natural Sciences List.
  - “From the Humanities or Social Sciences or Visual and Performing Arts Lists”
  - “From the Natural Science or Mathematical or additional Math & Natural Science lists”
  - Three or four lists: (STEM) Science, Mathematics, Engineering & Technology?
  - Mathematical, Natural Science or Engineering List instead of STEM as far as the categories go.
  - Additional Breadth in the six categories (MA, NS, Eng., Hum., V&PA, SS) Colleges will decide which category if a course does not fit into the 6 categories for the additional breadth.
  - Moved to approve the revised Additional Breadth statement:  
Additional Breadth in Humanities, Social Sciences and Visual and Performing Arts or Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Engineering

Students will take a course outside of their major area. Students in disciplines that are primarily focused on natural science, mathematics, or engineering will take an additional course from the Humanities, Social Sciences, or Visual and Performing Arts lists; students in disciplines that are primarily focused on the Humanities or Social Sciences will take an additional course from the Mathematics, Natural Sciences, or Engineering lists. As many programs do not neatly fall into one or the other of these categories, colleges will make the determination as to which categories will satisfy the Additional Breadth requirement for students in each of their programs.

- Approved unanimously.
- 2) Interdisciplinary Perspectives:
    - Read through the draft statement. Discussed what is meant by “discipline” and what could be considered as interdisciplinary courses that could go on the proposed IP lists.
    - Perhaps GERTF could create a suggested list for the IP category. Also preserve the STS courses and objectives. Important for our students to have the STS component to bring about a broad set of views from different disciplines.
    - Members expressed some confusion still at the wording of the IP category and how to define this piece. How to clarify this so that it can be presented satisfactorily to the faculty?

- Encourage the Provost to put funds into team-teaching as this would be an important piece to developing Interdisciplinary Perspectives courses. ( Include in an Implementation section)
- One piece is to allow STS courses into the IP category but that there be a deadline placed to give them time to revise their course objectives to meet the IP category. Suggestion of a three-year deadline. (include this also in an implementation section)
- First bullet of the IP statement – leave first parenthetical, remove second and third parentheticals. (revised statement below):

Interdisciplinary Perspectives (5 to 6 hours)

The courses must include sustained, rigorous and substantive instruction that focuses on the content and approaches of two or more disciplines (from any college(s)). At least one of the two courses must include sustained, rigorous and substantive instruction that focuses on the content and approaches of at least one discipline from the humanities/social sciences and at least one discipline from mathematics/natural sciences/engineering/technology. All colleges and departments are encouraged to develop appropriate courses for the Interdisciplinary Perspectives list.

- Rationale piece – last sentence suggestion to say “examining and responding to the complex problems facing our world.”

• Motion made to approve the revised IP statement -

Interdisciplinary Perspectives (5 to 6 hours)

- The courses must include sustained, rigorous and substantive instruction that focuses on the content and approaches of two or more disciplines (from any college(s)). At least one of the two courses must include sustained, rigorous and substantive instruction that focuses on the content and approaches of at least one discipline from the humanities/social sciences and at least one discipline from mathematics/natural sciences/engineering/technology. All colleges and departments are encouraged to develop appropriate courses for the Interdisciplinary Perspectives list.
- Alternatively, students may enroll in two linked courses that address one or more specific themes, topics, issues, cultures or problems, one from the humanities/social sciences/visual and performing arts and one from mathematics/natural sciences/engineering/technology. To satisfy this requirement by this means, the two instructors must sustain collaboration and demonstrate that the two courses are interrelated (for instance, by demonstrating that the content coverage is coordinated over the semester, or by demonstrating that the syllabi and reading lists clearly reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the courses). Students would have to complete both courses in a single semester to satisfy this requirement.

*Rationale:*

Interdisciplinary study provides students with the opportunity to synthesize knowledge and skills essential to the understanding of complex problems, to make connections between fields of study, to consider more than one disciplinary approach or methodology, and to bring to bear the insights from two or more disciplines in examining and/or responding to the complex problems facing our world.

*Objectives:*

Each course in Interdisciplinary Perspectives will provide instruction and guidance that help students to:

1. explore and synthesize the approaches or views of two or more disciplines; and
2. identify and apply authentic connections between two or more disciplines; and
3. distinguish between the essential concepts of the individual disciplines.

Approved unanimously.

3) Thematic Discussion:

- Appoint a subcommittee to work on description for themes and more detail on how it works. Laura to look at coming up with a sample of a theme, working with some other task force members.
- (Allen to send Laura what the TF has agreed to so far for themes).
- Laura Severin and Allen Dupont volunteered to take a look at a sample theme.
- Task Force agreed before that CUE would be the ultimate arbiter for looking at and processing items like the themes.
- Suggestion that a different group put together some guidelines and details for developing lists that could eventually help guide CUE. Colleges could be a starting point to create draft 1 for their lists, (for looking at what kinds of courses be on lists and what meets the requirements).
- Discussion of setting up groups to look at example lists.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted: Melissa McConnell