

Minutes of the General Education Committee
Wednesday, September 16, 2009
Hawai'i Hall 208

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Chair Scott Rowland.

Present: Ernestine Enomoto, Lynne Higa, Mike Nassir, Scott Rowland, Galen Sasaki, Todd Sammons, Mamoru Sato, Carolyn Stephenson.

Ex officio: Jan Heu (A&R)

Support staff: Lisa Fujikawa (GEO), Tom Hilgers (GEO), Jo-Anne Nakamoto (GEO Recorder)

Guests: Graduate Students Valerie Aloiau and Melissa Jones to observe the GEC for "Politics in Education" course.

Excused: Ron Cambra (OVCAA), Susan Hippensteele (SEC)

MINUTES: Minutes of the September 2, 2009 meeting were unanimously.

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Foundations Requirement Discussion – Feedback from GEC members.
 - Sasaki spoke to undergrad advisor in his college and they were agreeable with a 2-yr period to complete Foundations requirements. He noted that his College and Department have a limited amount of O, E, WI offerings and students may have to take specific courses to fulfill the Engineering requirements. They would have to consider rearranging classes in their proposed individual schedules.
 - Rowland stated that no matter what we propose, there will be upset individuals; we should limit students taking Foundations courses by the end of the second year; we need to put "teeth" into the regulation (i.e., a hold: "you cannot register if you have not completed your Foundations requirements by the end of your second year")
 - *Ka Leo* recently ran an article mentioning a single section of MATH 100 offered with 300 students enrolled. Question: Is the proposed change FS requirement a matter of accommodation? If we extended the requirement to be completed by the end of the second year will that give us more flexibility or be more restrictive?
 - Fujikawa distributed handout, FS Symbolic Reasoning Enrollment by Class Standing (only FS courses with no prerequisites were listed).

Discussion:

 - Appears classes are at near capacity each semester.
 - Would it be possible to limit Foundations courses to first-year students?
 - There are complications of some majors requiring certain courses.
 - Concept by Mary Tiles for PHIL courses for transfer students was briefly mentioned.
 - Ross, MATH 100, did not like having juniors or seniors in this course. Advised Rowland to contact the department chair for further information.
 - For some courses, large groups with assorted ages function fine in non-community courses, however may not be so with Foundations.
 - If we ever find the resources to fund these learning communities, incoming UHM students could have a "Math Freshman Experience".
 - Possible options:

- Could Banner place automatic registration holds on non-compliant students?
- Is it reasonable to restrict registration?
- Could a student be forced to register for an FS course (are there post-registration audits?)
- Is it a Foundations versus “graduation” requirement?
- Suggestion of an incremental auditing by the program that would force student to register for Foundations Course.
- Big issue is one of implementation.

WRAP UP: 1. Invite Stuart Lau to talk about Banner functions at next meeting.
 2. Consider inviting other FS departments (i.e., Math, Phil) to meet with GEC and share their viewpoints.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Next meeting: September 30, 2009, 1:30 p.m., HH 208.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder