

Minutes of the General Education Committee
Wednesday, January 21, 2009
Hawai'i Hall 208

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Chair Mike Kirk-Kuwaye.

Present: Lynne Higa, Susan Johnson, Mike Kirk-Kuwaye, Mike Nassir, Scott Rowland, Carolyn Stephenson, George Wong

Ex officio: Ron Cambra (OVCAA), Jan Heu (A&R), David Ross (SEC)

Guests: Lisa Fujikawa (GEO), Duane Henry (GEO), Jo-Anne Nakamoto (GEO Recorder)

MINUTES: Minutes of the December 10, 2008 meeting were approved.

ACTION and INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Vote on Focus Exemption Application – deferred to next meeting. Question was raised: Was this part of a service learning course? Fujikawa to check and report back.
2. FS Data – Henry distributed handout.
 - Incoming F06 cohort – 88% completed FS requirements by the end of their 2nd year.
 - Projection for F07 cohort is closer to fulfillment by the end of 2nd year, although attrition rate is higher.
 - Perhaps stronger language/wording in UHM catalog could emphasize taking FS in the first year.
 - Is delay in FS fulfillment a “refuge” effect, perhaps students’ delay by choice, i.e., taking MATH 100 vs. MATH 241?
 - Fujikawa’s handout illustrated enrollment by classification. Suggestion of surveying various advisors to see if they have a prescribed “list” of foundation courses for their students to take. Question re “Pathways” students – Heu to check if this group is the same as Ka’ie’ie students.
 - GEC advised that Foundations Board is meeting on 1/22; to wait for their report (due 2/16).
3. FG Discussion.
 - Should GEC start the process?
 - Request data (graphs) to determine if it is probable.
 - Obtain data sheet similar to Fujikawa’s. Note that there are many more FG course offerings, obtaining data will be more complex, more time-consuming.

- Attrition? Is there anything being done to increase graduation rates? (Yes, mandatory advising; movement to get “general” students to declare a major sooner; STAR will soon be announcing academic planning towards degree/4-yr academic plan.)
- If we change the requirement to the second year, then this argument is moot.
- The biggest challenge we have is to get students thinking about a possible major.
- Summary: you can acquire some information but this issue is more complicated (you need to complete 2 courses from 3 areas).
- GEC requested seat availability for FG courses, along with how many students completed one/both requirements.

WRAP-UP: -- GEO to obtain FG data from A&R.
-- GEO to contact Focus Exemption applicant’s faculty sponsor.
-- Heu to check on “Pathways” classification.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m

Next meeting: February 4, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Haw 208.
Please hold Feb. 25th as a future alternate date.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder