Minutes of the General Education Committee
Wednesday, December 7, 2011
Hawai‘i Hall 208

ATTENDEES: Fred Birkett, Ron Cambra (AVCUE), Jim Caron, Richard Chadwick (SEC),
Joe Jarrett, Scott Rowland, Mamoru Sato, Ryan Yamaguchi (Admissions), Wei Zhang

Support staff: Dawne Bost (GEO), Lisa Fujikawa (GEO), Jo-Anne Nakamoto (GEO Recorder),
Todd Sammons (GEO)

Excused: Sianha Gualano (ASUH), Garett Inoue (Admissions), Dore Minatodani,
Comfort Sumida

CALL TO ORDER:
The meeting was called to order by Chair Joe Jarrett at 12:03 p.m..

ACTION ITEMS:
1. Minutes of November 30, 2011 were approved with the following corrections:
   - Action Item #1: Information Item #2, 1st bullet: “WASC approved Voted to approve voted to approve a plan that would require for hard data on 5 core competencies . . .”
   - Action Item #5: At the January, 2012 SEC Senate meeting . . .

2. Proposal for GEC Vote – HAW 100 (FG-B)
   - History: last year the proposal was presented to the GEC at the last minute; thus, there was no time for negotiation. A revised version was submitted this spring. Former GEC Chair Enomoto’s memo addressed GEC concerns:
     o Biggest concern: the proposal was heavily focused on Hawaii and not globally.
     o Course was taught for many years with H focus; if approved for FG-B it would be a Foundations course instead.
     o Long reading list
     o Insistence on title with Hawaii focus
     o Suggestion of changing course number so as not to confuse future students.
     o Vague syllabus
     o Banner title should include words, “Global Language Issues”
     o It was noted that “Survival Kit” wording got moved from title to description.
   - Foundations Board recommended current proposal unanimously, noted weakness regarding global focus, but felt HAW had met the letter of the requirement.
     o Concern raised about lack of Course Coordinator to ensure adherence to “global” factor; this is always a potential problem with Foundations courses.
   - Concern raised about one less HAP course to offer once it is offered as an FG. It would increase the number of HAW FG courses.
     o It is not a HAP seat issue; just an issue of course variety.
   - HAW’s concept of “foundational” is different from the General Education’s idea of “foundational”.
   - Noted that the instructors addressed everything GEC wanted them to address without completely revamping the course.
   - VOTE: HAW 100 (FG-B) approved unanimously (5-0-0) with caveat to change Banner title.
3. Discussion re: concept of students with 45+ upper-division credits (from Committee in OVCAA)
   - Some of our 200-level courses are “introductory” (versus community college courses and 100-level “introductory” courses).
     - To get rid of the confusion, propose to switch it to upper division status.
     - Of students with 25 credits or more, one-third of UHM students are in NAT SCI.
     - When the economy dips and faculty retire en masse, it is harder to continue with “boutique” (300- and 400-level) courses and “service” type courses.
     - Question: One opinion: are the upper division courses important or are they too specialized?
       - If UHM is a research institution, the courses are important.
     - A reason given by some departing students is that they are not academically challenged here.
     - Are students taking the 45 credits in their department?
     - Do we want to accept community college-level courses as upper division at UHM?
     - NAT SCI students won’t be able to complete their degrees in four years.
       - Note: This issue is with CAPP now. It was unclear how long the issue was discussed before it was passed.
       - Designating 200-level NAT SCI courses as upper division has the problem of also being offered at community colleges.
       - CAA’s final recommendation: 45 credits within reach, with 5% impacted.
       - Biology majors - estimated that 50% won’t graduate within 4 years.
       - On the other hand, 45 out of 120 credits isn’t that much. However, because of the many 100- and 200-level requirements, forces students to take a lot of GenEd requirements and upper division courses in the final two years.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Next meeting: January 25, 2012, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder.