

Western Connecticut State University  
General Education Committee  
Minutes of the February 5th Meeting

Members Present: Ron Drozdenko (Ancell), Patty O'Neill (First Year Coordinator), Ingrid Pruss (At-Large), Chuck Rocca (A&S, Chair), Alba Skar (A&S), Abbey Zink (representing Linda Vaden-Goad, Dean of A&S), Lourdes Cruz (CUCAS rep), Cathy Vanaria (SVPA), Galina Bakhtiarova (Chair, Foreign Languages, Guest).

**I. Approval of October & November Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting (Patty O'Neill, seconded by Cathy Vanaria). No discussion. Vote: 5 in favor. 0 opposed. 2 abstentions.

Motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting (Patty O'Neill, seconded by Chuck Rocca). No discussion. Vote: 3 in favor. 0 opposed. 4 abstentions.

**II. New Business**

**Approval of New Course Proposal: Introductory Chinese I and II for Gen Ed Credit**

Galina Bakhtiarova brought two introductory courses in Mandarin Chinese to the Gen Ed Committee for approval since Hebrew has been eliminated. Two semesters must be taken to receive general education credit. Chuck Rocca moved to approve the course. Some discussion ensued. Ron Drozdenko brought up the need for an outline before approval. There was enough written explanation of the course for our purposes, and Galina assured us the professor who teaches the course will prepare a more detailed outline before the courses are taken to other committees for approval. *The General Education Committee voted on both introductory Chinese courses and passed them both with a unanimous vote.*

**Changes to Mathematics Program Sheets**

Chuck Rocca stated and the General Education Committee concurs with the following: *Provided there are no substantive changes to the courses, the General Education Committee asks to be informed of changes in the title or description of those courses. There is no need to vote on them.*

Chuck Rocca notified the committee of the following change to the math program sheets: Students registered for the B.S Secondary Ed in Mathematics or the B.A. Mathematics Majors must receive a minimum grade of C in mathematics core courses in order to pass them. There are no changes to the courses.

## **Changes to Calculus III Course Outline**

Rationale for change of prerequisite structure: Calculus I and Math 182 are better predictors of success in Calculus III than Calculus II, since Calc I and Math 182 give students the foundational skills necessary for Calculus III, so instead of just requiring a pass in Calculus II, students must either have a C or better in Math 182 or a B or better in Calculus I and be registered for Calculus II in order to take Calculus III. Lourdes Cruz, our Registrar, cautioned that students will not be able to register for Calculus II and III at the same time online but will have to register for those in person. Ron Drozdenko made a motion to approve the changes to Calculus III's prerequisites. Patty O'Neill seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

### **III. Old Business:**

#### **Update on the FY Program**

Patty O'Neill directed the FY program for three years and will be resigning the position at the end of the semester. She will recommend several possible candidates for the position. Patty O'Neill brought some encouraging beginning statistics that showed a small margin of improved retention for students who took FY courses. More comparative statistics are needed, larger samples, and more time needs to elapse, however, for these numbers to become statistically significant, however. Due to the fiscal crisis, budget support necessary for a full-time director is not available. For the program to blossom, a full-time director is necessary; however, in the meantime there are some steps to take to move things in a positive direction such as involving honors in the program, creating learning communities, and having FY students take their classes in blocks.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingrid Pruss