

Western Connecticut State University

General Education Committee

Minutes/ May 1st, 2009

Members present: Daryle Brown (PS), Robin Flanagan (At-large, Chair), Veronica Kenausis (Library, Webmaster), Chuck Rocca (A&S), Alba Skar (A&S), Kerry Walker (VPA), Abbey Zink (for L. Vaden-Goad, Dean), Matt Buchta (SGA rep) **Guest:** B. Peretti

Minutes of March 13th, 2009: motion to approve with corrections (Rocca/Skar)/ passed with 1 abstention

Gen Ed Committee for 2009-2010: Daryle Brown (PS), Ron Drozdenko (Ansell), Veronica Kenausis (Library, Webmaster), Chuck Rocca (A&S), Alba Skar (A&S), Linda Vaden-Goad (Dean), Kerry Walker (VPA) plus new individuals/ waiting for election results

Welcoming of new chair: Chuck Rocca graciously accepted the nomination for Chair for 2009-2010/ approved unanimously

Input from community: none

Old business:

Update on FYE: P. O'Neill not in attendance due to illness/ will discuss concerns at September meeting

New Business:

Proposal from PAM department: proposal to change the course description and prerequisite for Astronomy 150 (general astronomy)/ after discussion of materials presented to the committee, proposal passed unanimously

Proposal from History and Non-Western Cultures department (B. Peretti): the proposal has already been approved by PRC/ offered information to the Gen Ed Committee/the History department is assessing their core courses/want to emphasize skills of the major throughout the curriculum/ want to increase electives with 2 outside US & European history/ HIS 490 changed to capstone course (to show that students have mastered skills necessary)/ will introduce a "Distinction in History" track with a research paper requirement

Impact on gen ed: 2 NWC changed to 1 NWC/ like to offer more non-western history rather than NWC/ the History department feels that they can do both/ will continue offering same number of NWC courses/ change for History major: only take 1 European history

C. Rocca: "Are you asking for new courses to be designated Gen Ed?"...no

Proposal from Math department (C. Rocca): based on the departmental assessment for 2007-2008 school year, the Mathematics department surveyed its own instructors as well as those from other departments about what they taught or felt should be taught in Mat 181 (Calculus I) and 182 (Calculus II)/ the purpose of the changes in these course descriptions and outlines is to accurately reflect what is being taught and to provide courses that better support the department's stated goal of "supporting the University Mission with regards to service to other departments."

MAT 170 and 171 changes are proposed in order to keep these courses in line with the curriculum.

Motion to accept the changes to the mathematic courses as presented (Kenausis/ Brown) accepted unanimously

End the University as We Know It (article by Mark C. Taylor): Committee will discuss at the September 2009 meeting the 5 things that we would like to change at WCSU

Other:

Language requirement (A. Skar): Alba pointed out that program sheets for majors who have a language requirement, have that requirement at the bottom of the sheet/ suggestion is to move the language requirement to the top of the program sheets

Implication of courses taken in high school that meet gen ed requirements: currently, there is no assessment for this/ will be on September 2009 agenda

Meeting time for fall 2009: first meeting will be Friday September 11th, 2009 at 2pm in the Haas Library conference room on the second floor/ additional meeting times will be decided upon at that meeting

A hearty thanks to Robin Flanagan for a job well done as Chair of the Gen Ed Committee ☺

Adjourn: 10:00 am

Respectfully submitted,

Daryle Brown, Recorder