

General Education Task Force
March 27, 2007

Jim moved to approve the minutes. Paul seconded the motion. Two changes were suggested. One typo needs to be corrected and mapping “exercise” needs to be changed to mapping “diagram.” The minutes were unanimously approved with above changes.

Announcements:

We will continue to review the guidelines next week and then move on to administration. After the April 3rd meeting, the next time we are all together will be April 12th, so we need to get a lot of work done in the next few sessions. The forum presenters are as follows: ICT-Ann, Writing-Georgia, Wellness-Sue, historical studies designation-Dan, literary studies designation-Alexandra, fine arts designation-Laurie, Aesthetic Perspective-Paulette, Historical/Social Perspectives-Jim, Science Inquiry-Ray, Local/Global Perspective-Mike.

Sue spoke with Lynn Moss Sanders about the honors program. She didn’t see any big problems integrating their program with the new gened.

Discussion:

Dan presented the historical studies designation guidelines. The History department gave input for this document. Task force members also suggested a few changes. The question of language came up again in that we may be setting ourselves up to assess the learning outcomes, the mapping diagram guidelines, and these guidelines. A suggestion was made to go back to the original language which speaks to the designation, or course, rather than the student. If the guidelines are too narrow, faculty will not feel they have the freedom to design these themes. It was proposed that we turn these guidelines into “Course Design Guidelines.” Once the courses are designed, then student artifacts will become available for assessment.

Alexandra presented the literary studies designator guidelines. The English, Foreign Language, and Philosophy/Religion departments all gave their input. Some discussion took place as to the inclusion of composition, reception, rhetoric, and/or cultural significance of a text. The subcommittee will discuss this further in order to clarify.

Paulette presented the fine arts studies designator guidelines. There was some discussion as to the wording of this document, definitions mainly. The subcommittee will review and edit as new developments occur.

Paulette also presented the Aesthetic perspective guidelines. Language was included from faculty statements. There was some discussion about the inclusion of nature in aesthetics and its part in various cultural forms. Dave mentioned that all art is a cultural form, but not all cultural forms are art. The subcommittee will discuss the guidelines further.

Jim presented the Historical/Social Perspective guidelines. There were some wording changes to be made, so the subcommittee will continue to work on this.

Ray presented the Science Inquiry guidelines. The “flexible process” of science was stressed. The language of this document will be pared down to match the other guideline documents. There was some discussion as to the possibility of the two course sequence and its role in the new gened program. Dave suggested we think about these courses not in terms of the first science course(s) that students take, but the last science course(s) they take.

Mike presented the Local/Global Perspective guidelines. There was some discussion about the absence of service learning, but Mike indicated that administration needed to address this before we put it in the document. The subcommittee will make changes to reflect what must happen within this perspective as opposed to what may happen.

The above documents will appear on the GETF website upon further changes.