

**Shepherd University { General Studies } Meeting Minutes Jan. 18, 2012**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:**

Andro Barnett	(HPERS)	present
Laura Clayton	(NURS)	X
Larry Daily	(PYSC)	present
Momodou Darboe	(SOCL)	present
Heidi Dobish	(Chair)	X
Kathleen Corpus	(BADM)	X
Karen Green	(SOWK)	present
Cindy Vance	(ACCT)	present
Dawn Burke	(EDUC)	present
Anders Henriksson	(HIST)	present
Ann Henriksson	(Library)	present
Erik Jones	(MUSC)	present
Kristin Kaineg	(CAT)	present
Bob Warburton	(CHEM)	present
Tim Nixon	(E&ML)	present
Burt Lidgerding	(BIOL)	present
John Schultz	(ECON)	present
Stephanie Slocum-Schaffer	(PSCI)	present
Ed Snyder	(IES)	X
Chris Elmer	(CSME)	X
Kevin Williams	(MCOM)	X
Timothy Leonard	(student rep)	present
Bryan Staggers	(student rep)	X
Student Rep	(student rep)	X
Helena Cole	(retention Specialist)	X
Holly Frye	(Service Learning)	X
Emily Gross	(Academic Support)	present
Christana Johnson	(Multicultural SA)	X
Judi McIntyre	(FYEX Director)	present
Laura Renninger	(Assessment Task Force)	X
Tracy Seffers	(Registrar)	X
Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt	(C&I Chair)	X

The January 18, 2012 meeting of the Shepherd University General Studies Committee was held in White Hall Room 104. Dr. Daily (standing in as Chair for 1/18/12 meeting) called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

**Meeting Schedule (2011-2012):** The General Studies Committee will meet every third Wednesday of the month at 4:10pm.

**I. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 11/16/2011**

- a. Dr. Slocum-Schaffer moved to approve the minutes with the requested changes on page 2.
- b. M/S/P Minutes unanimously approved.

**II. Review Forms (Course Request Form & Core Checklist)**

- a. **M/S/P — Dr. Henriksson moved to approve the revised form, second.** The Core Curriculum Request was updated to include 3 check boxes: **add** new core course, **change** an existing course and to **delete** an existing core course.
- b. **M/S/P** The Core Curriculum checklist for 2012-13 was presented with the new additions of history in tier one and tier two. The checklist will be reviewed each meeting to approve the additions and changes approved by the GS committee.

**III. Discussion: Signature required for substitutions of Core Curriculum Courses (Chair or GS committee?)**

General Studies committee members discussed the issue, below are some of the highlights of the discussion.

No one should have blanket authority to sign off on any core curriculum course. But there has to be some wiggle room in the procedure. If Department Chairs are not the ones to authorize substitutions for Core Curriculum courses, who will be? Dr. Schultz asked whether or not a subcommittee should be formed to deal with these types of issues. Some members were comfortable with trusting department chairs with this responsibility, but some were concerned that if the chairs have this responsibility how would we maintain consistency? Would some look at content over competencies? It is believed that these petitions will only come forward during the transition period and we do not anticipate many petitions. In the end, the committee felt most comfortable forming a subcommittee to deal with substitutions.

Dr. Schultz moved to form a subcommittee to review core curriculum course substitution requests. This committee will be made up of one representative from each school, Dr. Schultz to chair and represent the Business and Social Sciences. Motion second.

**M/S/P — to form a subcommittee for core curriculum substitutions**

*The sub committee needs three more volunteers.* No additional volunteers came forward at the meeting. The GS chair will send an email asking for volunteers. The Subcommittee still needs a volunteer from Arts & Humanities, Education and Professional Studies and Natural Sciences and Mathematics. This subcommittee needs to come up with a procedure and form for students to follow.

**IV. Discussion: Proposed By-Laws change in Faculty Senate**

General Studies Committee discussed the proposed by-laws, below are some of the highlights of the half-hour discussion.

Dr. Slocum Schaffer met and discussed the issue at a department meeting and recommend changing it to say “require 2/3 vote to reject.” It currently reads “passed by a 2/3-majority vote...”

There was a concern that having all policies go through the senate may bog down the senate with a lot of issues that are already dealt with in other committees.

Dr. Darboe brought up the conversation in C & I where they wanted to make a technical distinction between “endorsement” and “approval.” The committee agrees that there is a difference between an endorsement — a non-binding statement of support — and approval. Failing to get endorsement from a body doesn't prevent the proposal from going forward. Failing to get approval does. The issue that committee members have with the senate proposal is that they are using the word endorsement to describe an approval process. These do require constitutional changes and the bylaws alone cannot make this happen.

GS Members are in favor of strengthening the role of the Senate to make academic changes. The Faculty Senate represents the faculty and should support academic, departmental, and faculty issues. The administration should not take over and mandate that we do. How should the faculty work on general education, if we have no say? If we are told what to do, then there is no use for a General Studies Committee. The Senate should have final say on any Academic issues. That is why we have a senate, so they represent us as faculty.

Student representative, Timothy Leonard, added that the students in the SGA are also feeling pressure and see the direct effect on the students as well as the faculty.

Dr. Henriksson suggested the addition of “Other” before “Policies that impact the campus at large shall be brought before the Senate, and endorsement shall be required by the Senate.” This way, the faculty continues to have authority to make final academic changes.

The actions that the General Studies Committee takes affect the campus at-large since every student must complete the Core Curriculum. It could be argued, therefore, that every GS decision would require Senate approval under the proposed language. Some members feel that the change is problematic for the GS committee since major issues already go to the full faculty for a vote. In addition, there is concern about the vagueness of the wording “issues that impact the campus at large.”

The members did not come to a consensus on any action. The committee wants the GS chair to report and summarize this discussion at the next Senate meeting.

#### V. C & I Report

Dr. Shurbutt absent to present a C & I report

#### VI. Second Reading

ART 204 Professor Smith and Kaineg presented ART 204 proposal for Art Writing in the Major course. Motion proposed by Professor Kaineg to accept ART 204 as WM.

**M/S/P (13 yes, 0 nay)** ART 204 Contemporary Art as a Second Tier Writing in the Major is approved. Justification on lifelong learning missing, Professor Kaineg will provide a justification on how ART 204 meets the competency lifelong learning.

ART 303 Professor Smith presented information about the ART 303 course, how it is taught and insight into the cultural aspect of the course. The original proposal had both Arts and Social Sciences selected. Art is a mistake and will be corrected on the form. However, the committee felt strongly that the course **is not a social science** and that it would fit better in the **Humanities** category. In addition, since the course only discusses Africa, it does not fulfill the Multiculturalism & Diversity competency and it should be changed to **Global Understanding and Respect**.

Motion proposed by Dr. Warburton to accept ART 303 as Second Tier Humanities (GL) / Second **M/S/P (13 yea, 0 nay)** ART 303 African Art as Second Tier Humanities (GL) is approved

FACS 403 — Dr. Corpus absent, Core Curriculum Course Approval — **Tabled till next Meeting.**

In addition, committee members found a few items that need to be addressed with the proposal. Needs to address “Lifelong Learning”, “Written Communication”. No justification was provided how this course will meet lifelong learning, written communication, ethical practice and ethical reasoning, and critical thinking. The proposal is also missing the current catalog description. At least one week prior to the Feb. meeting these items should be added for committee members to review.

**VII. First Reading**

Dr. Henriksson presented an overview of the proposed History courses

HIST 110 — Western Traditions to 1400 (Tier One, History)

HIST 128 — The Age of Revolution and Conflict, 1750-1950 (Tier One, History)

HIST 340 — Modern Asian History Through Literature (Tier Two — GL)

*“Using novels and novellas as its subject matter, the course explores the human dimension of the massive changes that Asian nations have undergone in modern times. Works studies in the course illustrate both the substantial differences among nations and regions and our shared humanity.”*

**VIII. Other Business**

No additional business was discussed

Meeting adjourned at 5:27pm

Respectfully Submitted • Kristin Kaineg