

Council on General Education  
March 5, 2009

William Thompson, Amy Brock, Sean Cordes, Steve Bennet, David Haugen, Candace McLaughlin (ex-officio), Steve Bennet, Phyllis Rippey, Kathleen O'Donnell-Brown, Douglas Huff, William Thompson, David Casagrande, Sofura Boukari, Bill Knox (guest)

Discussion of General Honors 305 Advanced Fine Arts

Phyllis Rippey: This is a 300 level course and, so, doesn't look like an Honors course. Most Gen Ed courses are not 300. Why do an advanced focus course? Do they need Gen Ed and Upper Division credit?

Bill Knox: Yes—for the upper division honors. We also have very few lower division classes.

Phyllis: I need an organizing principal that says: This is appropriate because it is Honors. But how do we say no to Political Science if they ask the same question.

Bill: The Honors College is not an academic department. We have a modicum of control over our offerings.

Phyllis: So the faculty member wants to offer it as Gen Ed so it will make?

Bill: No. We want a Gen Ed course.

Phyllis: Honors students could take a Fine Arts course as in-course Honors. On the other hand we have made an exception before for honors in this regard (upper division Gen Ed for Honors). On the other hand, the state takes a dim view of upper division gen ed courses. I have a philosophical problem with this course. But, I see the pragmatic issues.

Candy: Is there any reason it couldn't be offered as a class for Juniors.

Bill: The course might not make if it weren't Gen Ed.

Phyllis: I'd prefer that the Honors College be able to waive the Fine Arts requirement. But I am not pressing that. On the other hand, we have approved upper divisions (three) before for Honors. But, we need to remember what Gen Ed is.

Huff: I won't have as many Honors students in my gen ed music class—for example.

David: How big a class is this?

Bill: It's small

David: Can you assure that there will be writing per the Gen Ed requirements.

Bill: Seems to agree.

David Haugen: Perhaps we should make an effort to get rid of all 300 level courses.

David Casagrande: Perhaps we should pursue a third way: only allow the Honors College to put forth 300 level courses for Gen Ed.

Phyllis: We could see that this is acceptable because we want to encourage students to do the more challenging work offered in the 300 courses.

Sofura: Do you want more 300 level courses?

Bill Knox: We have fewer Honors Students who enroll for the four years. They tend to be either upper or lower division (2 year obligation). As a result, I don't see the number of 300 level courses increasing.

David Casagrande: **Makes a recommendation that we include General Honors 305 as an exception to the rule because it enhances the excellence of our curricular offerings.**

David Haugen: Seconds this motion

Bill Knox: Gives history of Honors College enrollment as first year students-it's declined.

Phyllis: Any other discussion?

Phyllis: All in favor?

**Motion passes unanimously.**

Bill Knox: Thanks all involved.

Phyllis: **Electronic Archive Discussion**

Phyllis: I wanted to investigate the possibility of archiving our records. Bill, David Casagrande, Amy Brock and I met with Heather Richmond (university archivist). We are going to work toward establishing an archive. We will give the archives the paper and electronic records we have now. Then, every two years we will move the minutes, etc. from the Council web site to the archives, where they will be archived in a searchable format (DVD or CD).

Phyllis: I'd also like to have a web master for this council. Perhaps the Provost could have a grad student in CS or IDT, etc. be the web master for the various Senate Councils.

Phyllis: The committee that met with Heather will meet with the Provost to discuss our concerns about archives, etc. of our council.

Phyllis: **Assessment**

Phyllis: All we want is totals from the departments, aggregated numbers, related to the goals. I will make sure Judy knows this. As regards our next meeting, we need to think what we do with the numbers. I assume we are reporting to Faculty Senate. I assume we will take the numbers by area, not by departments.

John Miller: **Do departments know they are doing this again this semester?**

Phyllis: No. Just Fall.

John Miller: Judi Dallinger says we have to do this again in the spring.

Phyllis: I will get that clarified.

Phyllis: Discusses need for election of new chair in April.

Meeting at Adjourned at 4:21 pm