**GE Committee MINUTES**

**Sept 6, 2013**, 2-3:30 pm, room CO-423

Present: Alex Sterling (chair), Francesca Paltera (sitting in for Scott Cabral), Natalie Hannum, Nancy Ybarra, Anthony Hailey, A’kilah Moore, and Cindy McGrath.

Sept 6:

1. Agenda & minutes--*approved*
2. Quick membership update: who we have (so far) this semester. *We still need reps from creative arts/humanities, behavioral science, biology, and Distance Ed. Our small numbers led us to talk about what counts as a quorum. GE has no by-laws to tell us what counts, so we decided with 4/7 possible faculty reps present, we would go ahead.*
3. GE Course outlines
   * Brief review of COORs process conversation from last spring & how this affects us today. *(See May 16 2013 minutes for info.)*
   * Spanish COORs: Span 50 and Span 51. *Not approved for GE, but we’d like to discuss it again, ideally with Spanish faculty present.*
     + *For GE SLOs 2 (interdisciplinary) and 5(diversity), the committee thought both COORs passed easily. They also pass for GE SLO 1, the speaking requirement.*
     + *The committee thought Span 51 may pass muster for GE SLO 1, the writing part, but were unsure about Span 50 because it is a beginning level Spanish course: is the writing sophisticated enough to count as GE? We thought the same question could be asked about Span 51. Span 51 has some short essays of 3-5 paragraphs, but Span 50 appears not to have this writing—true?*
     + *The committee thought there wasn’t enough information about how ethics (GE SLO 4) is taught and assessed in either course. Being appropriate in a 2nd language when talking to a person of a culture different is a profound and worthwhile aim, but the committee isn’t convinced that it counts as ethics.*
     + *The committee was divided on whether either course passed for GE SLO 3 (critical thinking). Learning a new language is cognitively demanding, no doubt, and the students have to think hard, but we were unsure whether this kind of thinking fits what we mean by “critical thinking” (e.g. defend arguments, analyze, etc.) in GE.*
     + *A question was posed about whether higher level language courses might be GE, but not lower level ones.*
     + *If we decided to approve foreign language courses as GE, should that not apply equally to all languages we offer?*
     + *This led us to a more philosophical discussion and challenged us to try to clarify what really counts as GE. Some wondered that since most courses deal with many of the GE SLOs in minor ways at least, couldn’t they be defended as GE? Why isn’t Eng 70 GE, or most CTE courses? We felt we weren't ready to answer these questions and were also uncomfortable making such a big decision with just four GE faculty present. We will consider ways to broaden the discussion.*
   * Music 10 online supplement: *postponed till next meeting.*
4. Revisit GE’s charge: What is the mission? *We just barely got started on this topic.*
   * Review the charge from ‘06
   * To what degree transfer, to what degree the local AA/AS?
   * What should we make our biggest priorities? Assessment, professional development, COORs approvals, community building/keeping the spirit of GE alive….
5. GE/TLC faculty event on Sept 23—what should we do? A few ideas: get input on how to organize/reboot GE professional development; float the idea of eliminating GE SLO 2; brainstorm how to stay fresh with new courses and other innovations; talk about transfer vs. local degree GE students… *One suggestion that came up is to work on defining the GE SLOs better by eliciting ideas from faculty about what they think, say, “critical thinking” means. Another suggestion that came up is to elicit ideas from faculty for rebooting GE professional development. A 3rd idea is to design something based on feedback on the latest draft of the part of the accreditation report relevant to GE. Nothing was decided because we ran out of time.*