**GE Committee MINUTES**

**May 16, 2013**, 3:30-5 pm, room L-106

Thurs May 16: *Attendees—Alex Sterling (chair), Dave Zimny, Ken Alexander, Mark Lewis, Cindy McGrath, A’kilah Moore, Janice Townsend.*

1. Agenda and minutes— *approved*.
2. Announcement: August flex will be Tues from 10:30-1:30. Who can make it? *Alex, Dave, Ken, Mark, and Cindy can make it. Alex will ask the others who signed up to participate.*
3. Revised ethnic/multicultural studies description: *the cmtee likes something like version 2, but would like a 1st sentence stating the central purpose of an EMS course, and would like to add the “defined broadly…” phrase from the top of version 1.*
4. Agenda for August assessment flex: *Dave & Cindy volunteered to help Alex get ready in early August. TLC agreed to pay for lunch. Alex will make a draft of a rubric and also bring samples from other colleges to look at. We will work on the rubric, examine a few student samples (from Janice’s class spr 13), and share ideas for prompts and readings. Alex will send examples of prompts and readings to participants ahead of time.*
5. The GE philosophy statement: *the cmtee likes it generally, but wanted to take out the 1st paragraph. Dave, I think, volunteered to do an edit. Alex will email a draft to the whole faculty, and those who want to comment may do so.*
6. The COORs approvals process in GE—faculty feedback from Alex's visits to departments, and how we can improve our process. Questions for discussion:
   1. Should we look at COORs every 5 years, or only when they are new to GE? *Janice says we have to look at them every 5 yrs, Laurie said otherwise, 1 suggestion was to have GE look only when the COOR changes significantly, but apparently CC reconfirmed last week that it wants us to look at every COOR every 5 yrs, so we will keep doing it.*

*We talked briefly about the “moving target” critique; someone suggested that faculty tell us what the changes were upon submitting. We agreed that it’s okay for faculty to get different feedback 5 yrs later because over that 5 yrs we learn and grow—also, this critique would be more serious if any courses had been removed from GE by the cmtee, which hasn’t happened.*

*Also, we talked about how, years ago, faculty used to submit a GE supplement form instead of having us look at the whole COOR—Cindy thought that and the current system both have pros and cons, and the cmtee didn’t seem to want to go back to the old system.*

* 1. How should we think about examining a course’s CSLOs? Does every GE SLO need to be referenced, or should the CSLOs merely reflect the philosophy of GE? *More like the former; the cmtee wants to keep on looking at the CSLOs, but make sure not to be too picky and wordsmithing about it.*
  2. Should we examine the A-level/C-level part of COORs? *No—it’s out. The current idea is to revise the form so that it just has 2 columns: on GE’s integration into CSLOs, and whether the GE SLO is assessed. We had some disagreement about whether to have a holistic column that read something like, “Is the GE SLO in the course somewhere?”*
  3. How can we create better feelings in the GE community about our work? *The cmtee agrees that we don’t want to hurt people’s feelings or cause ill will with our work. Cmtee members disagree about whether and how to to ease up in our scrutiny of COORs. Topic hasn’t been fully discussed yet. We hope a simpler form will help. Mark said making the GE assmt voluntary was helpful in this regard.*
  4. In the form, should we revise the “key points”? is it possible to clarify without being to prescriptive? *Not discussed yet.*
  5. Should the chair (or someone) give faculty feedback *before* the COOR comes to committee, so that we know a COOR will pass before it comes to us? *Not discussed yet.*
  6. In uncertain cases, should we defer to discipline expertise and pass the COOR, trusting that faculty know best how to teach GE in their own disciplines? *The cmtee seems to disagree on this…not sure where we are on this.*
  7. How can we improve transparency, so faculty know what to expect? (e.g. publicize the evaluation for more) *Not discussed yet.*

1. What to do in FA 13 GE faculty events (Discuss SLO 2? Something about ethnic/multicultural studies? Brainstorm new professional development ideas?) *Ran out of time—didn’t discuss.*