

## **ASU General Studies Council**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

November 25, 2014

3:00-5:00 p.m.

**Present:** Ariel Anbar, Alexandra Aragon, Charlotte Armbruster, Nilanjana Bhattacharjya, Eva Brumberger, Eileen Diaz McConnell, Alison Essary, Lara Ferry, Cora Fox, Chouki El Hamel-Chair, Sean Hawkeswood, Richard Herrera, Julie Holston, Stephen Krause, Lauren Leo, Phyllis Lucie, Tim McGuire, Lisa McIntyre, Bertha Manninen, Michael Mokwa, Janice Pittsley, Julia Sarreal, Brian Skromme

**Excused:** Christine Buzinde, Cory Hansen, Paul Hirt, Helene Ossipov, Michelle Zandieh

#### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes—October 21, 2014**

The minutes were approved as written.

#### **3. Announcements**

Chouki asked if a student representative will be appointed to the GSC. Phyllis will follow-up with Fred as appointments are determined by the Office of the University Provost. An attempt to secure a student was made, but to date there has not been a student appointment.

The GSC would like to invite Betty Phillips to attend a GSC meeting and discuss project-based learning modules. Chouki will follow-up.

#### **4. Old Business**

None

#### **5. New Business**

A GSC member questioned why syllabi are not attached to each course in the class search online. Although this is not within the purview of the GSC, Phyllis will follow-up.

## 6. Subcommittee Reports

### A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry (Eva Brumberger)

#### From ASU:

Approved for L designation, effective Fall 2015 (new):  
SWU 306 Ethics in Social Services

#### From MCCCCD:

None

### B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS) (Brian Skromme)

#### From ASU:

CIS 105 Computer Applications and Information Technology (Mandatory Review - Revised)

CIS 236 Honors Introduction to Information Systems (Mandatory Review - Revised)

**Contingent approval** to retain the **CS** designation pending receipt of additional requested materials that satisfy the CS requirement.

#### From MCCCCD:

None

### C) Humanities, Fine Arts & Design (HU) (Cora Fox)

#### From ASU:

Approved for HU designation, effective Fall 2015 (new):  
DCE 202 Dance in U.S. Popular Culture

#### From MCCCCD:

#### Approved to retain HU designation:

HIS 108 History of the U.S. Since 1945 (Mandatory Review)

#### Revise and Resubmit for HU designation:

PHI 106 Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving (Mandatory Review)

*Rationale:* This course is described primarily as a logic course focused on informal fallacies, so the subcommittee requests further clarification about where the informal fallacies themselves will be covered in depth in the course. In addition, the instructor states that criterion 4a is met by having the students study fallacies, the difference

between inductive and deductive arguments, and issues of free will v. determinism, epistemology, and moral reasoning. The last three topics, however, seem to take up only a small part of the class time on the syllabus, so the subcommittee requests more detail about where and how in the course these topics will be covered in a substantive way.

**D) Social - Behavioral Sciences (SB) (Michael Mokwa)**

**From ASU:**

**Approved for SB designation, effective Fall 2015 (new):**

WST 320 Gender, Drugs and Alcohol

**Revise and Resubmit for SB designation:**

WST 330 Women, Film, and Culture (Currently WST 431)

*Rationale:* It is difficult to assess this syllabus. Much of the content aligns closely with a Cultural and/or Humanities submission. However, the reading list implies more of a social behavioral perspective than humanities. It appears that media analysis is being used to understand social and cultural constructions, but this is not clear. We ask for more direct information about the emphasis on behavior, interaction, and methods used to acquire knowledge about cultural or social events and processes. More in depth description regarding the assignment guidelines might help to better determine if the course meets the S-B criteria.

**From MCCC:**

None

**E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG) (Alison Essary)**

**From ASU:**

**Approved for SQ designation, effective fall 2015 (new):**

BIO 151 Biological Thinking (SQ)

Approval contingent upon receipt of laboratory syllabus.

**From MCCC:**

None

**F) Cultural Diversity in the United States (C) (Nilanjana Bhattacharjya)**

**From ASU:**

**Approved for C designation, effective fall 2015 (new):**

DCE 202 Dance in U.S. Popular Culture

**Deny for C designation:**

SWU 462 Global Social Welfare

*Rationale:* Although this course does indeed make contributions to the criteria listed for the Cultural Diversity in the United States designation, it does so only in Unit 5 "International Social Work Comes Home," one of six units. This unit is scheduled in weeks 11 ("Refugees") and 12 ("Migration"). Their focus on Bhutanese communities in Arizona and Mexican immigrant communities is what we are looking for, but it appears in too limited a section of the entire course to earn the "C" designation. Furthermore, the focus on slavery and human trafficking in week 13 may at times intersect with the issues of more permanently settled cultural groups in the United States, but only one of the recommended (not required) readings, Cadet's *Restavec: From Haitian slave child to middle-class American* makes that intersection explicit.

**From MCCCDCD:**

**Approved to retain C designation:**

EDU/HUM/STO 292 The Art of Storytelling (Mandatory Review)

**G) Global Awareness (G) (Richard Herrera)**

**From ASU:**

**Approved for G designation, effective fall 2015 (new):**

GER 101 Elementary German

GER 102 Elementary German

SWU 462 Global Social Welfare

**H) Historical Awareness (H) (Julia Sarreal)**

**From ASU:**

None

**From MCCCDCD:**

**Approved to retain the H designation:**

ARH 203 Art of Ancient Egypt (Mandatory Review)

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie