

University General Education Committee
Meeting of January 29, 2004

Present: Carl Brun (CoLA), Susan Carrafiello (Honors), Jeanne Fraker (UVC), David Green (Student), Lillie Howard (Provost), Daniel Ketcha (CoSM), Joe Law (WAC), Evan Osborne (RSCoB), David Reynolds (CECS), Henry Limouze (CoLA, Chair); also present, Ed Rutter

1. Minutes from January 15 were approved.
2. The committee considered the proposed new Area 6 (college component) course in Engineering and Computer Sciences, ISE 210. The proposal needs to spell out GE objectives in greater detail and to relate those objectives to the course description, course goals, and course schedule more specifically. Since the course is writing intensive, the proposal and syllabus need to define more clearly how writing will be integrated. The course needs to clarify how the skills it will teach relate to the purposes of GE. Finally, the proposal must state who will teach the course and must give a contact person. David Reynolds and other CECS faculty will work with Joe Law to find language that better integrates writing into the course schedule. Henry Limouze will be available as a resource to help with GE objectives.
3. Ed Rutter discussed GE staffing patterns. Ed distributed a spreadsheet showing that nearly 27% of GE sections (core courses only) were taught by faculty at the professorial rank, while instructors and lecturers teach nearly 41% of sections. While this means that over 2/3 of GE sections are taught by full-time faculty, it appears that professorial faculty are responsible for fewer sections than they had taught in the past. Lillie Howard raised the question of how the university might revive faculty interest in and commitment to teaching general education. The committee discussed various faculty attitudes toward GE classes; some view it as a punishment, others as a rewarding opportunity to teach their field. No decision was taken on whether to conduct a survey of faculty attitudes—the problem needs to be more clearly defined first. Ed Rutter will break down the data area by area. Lillie Howard will find a similar survey of staffing patterns done some years ago. The committee will examine data further.
4. Lillie Howard discussed the latest OBR review of GE courses submitted for the transfer module. Seven GE core courses have been turned down, including all Area one courses along with courses in RST, SOC and SW. Other courses that were turned down include several preprofessional courses in the sciences and GE substitution courses in various departments. Dr. Howard and the deans are examining the data now, and the deans will decide which courses they wish to resubmit.
5. The chair distributed all assessment plans received before today's meeting. They include a plan for the Area 1 writing courses and a plan for each of the three Education courses in Area 6.

The committee adjourned at 5:15 p.m.