

University General Education Committee  
Meeting of February 19, 2004

Present: Susan Carrafiello (Honors), Valerie Doll (CEHS), Jeanne Fraker (UVC), David Green (Student), Lillie Howard (Provost), Daniel Ketcha (CoSM), Joe Law (WAC), Evan Osborne (RSCoB), David Reynolds (CECS), Thomas Svobodny (CoSM), Henry Limouze (CoLA, Chair)

1. Minutes from January 29 were approved.
2. The committee reconsidered the proposed new Area 6 (college component) course in Engineering and Computer Sciences, ISE 210. The committee agreed the proposal did a very satisfactory job of clarifying how the course met the objectives for Area 6. The master syllabus is clear. The committee approved the course and recommends it to UCAPC for approval.
3. The committee considered the assessment proposal for Area 1--Writing received from Dr. Rich Bullock and distributed at the last meeting. The committee will send recommendations for improvements to Dr. Bullock.
4. The committee tabled action on the Area 6 plans submitted from CEHS. They will be considered after a meeting with the Associate Deans next week.
5. The chair distributed all assessment plans received before today's meeting. They include complete plans for Areas 2 and 4, and a plan for Area 1--Mathematics.
6. The committee discussed new data relating to GE staffing. The chair distributed information relating to GE sections taught in F 97. Vice President Howard distributed similar information for F 96 and F 95, along with a breakdown of the recent F 03 data, showing the numbers of faculty at each rank teaching in each area. The numbers appear to show that tenured and tenure-line faculty teach fewer sections of GE courses than they once did. However, percentages alone are deceiving, since the professorial faculty appear to teach nearly the same number of credit hours. Rather GE has shown a 68% growth in credit hours from F 97 to F 03. The new credit hours are almost exclusively taught by non-tenure-line faculty. On the other hand, the breakdown of F 03 data into areas seems to show that some areas of GE have no professorial faculty at all teaching these courses; others have relatively few. The chair suggested that the committee might make a two-pronged recommendation: (1) the committee might recommend that colleges and departments try to assign more sections of GE classes to professorial faculty; (2) the committee might also recommend that the Deans and Provost work to staff GE needs in the future by hiring tenure-line faculty, since the data does seem to show that the recent growth in demand has been met by the hiring of instructors and lecturers.

Professor Svobodny shared data from a survey he conducted to gather the views of faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics about GE courses. The committee agreed that this survey was worth doing elsewhere in the GE program.

7. Vice President Howard updated the committee on OBR transfer module issues. A recent letter from the OBR has clarified some questions. We now have some guidance for revising our presentation of some courses. Many of the GE substitution courses may simply need clarification; it appears they have been conditionally approved. Others still present difficulties. Vice President Howard is working with chairs and faculty to prepare revised course descriptions.

8. Henry Limouze and Lillie Howard will meet with Associate Deans on Thursday, Feb. 26 to discuss assessing the college component area. The next meeting of UGEC will be on Thursday, March 4 at 4:00 p.m. in 348 University Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.