UH Hilo 2011-2012 General Education Committee

27 October 2011

Minutes

Members Present: Norman Anarcon, Todd Belt, Melequini Gaisoa, Sue Jarvi, Gene Johnson, Yumiko Ohara, Vera Parham, John Price, April Scazzola.

Members Absent: Seri Luangphinith, Amy Saxton.

Meeting called to order at 10:03am.

1. Setting deadline for applications for Fall 2013 certification.
   Date Set: Second Friday of February: February 10, 2012

2. Responses and suggestions for applications that did not make the cut last year.
   Chair will contact people who submitted these applications and provide suggestions for modification.

3. Clarification of language for categories in order to avoid applicant confusion.
   Discussed concerns regarding whether native culture was considered part of the “Hawai‘i-Pan-Pacific” for the integrative requirement. The committee noted that the Pacific Coast of the Americas are included as such in the application paperwork. Further clarification will also be added to the website.

   The committee also discussed a change that was proposed last year regarding courses that merely “consider” global and community citizenship as satisfying the GCC requirements. The committee discussed the “Collaborative skills and civic participation” aspects of the GE Curriculum, as well as the broader push for applied learning in the new UH Hilo Strategic Plan as well as our accreditation agency, WASC. The committee discussed the GCC certification requirement that a course:
   “include, but not limited to, a field work, community workshop, service-learning component, or a research-based project that utilizes field work to explore ways in which one can contribute to the good of the global and/or local community.”

   The committee noted the difficulty this poses for certain theoretical courses. The committee resolved that applications for consideration for GCC will be handled on a case-by-case basis and that applicants will be encouraged to include an applied learning / civic outreach aspect where possible without fundamentally altering the content or nature of the course or creating an onerous burden on instruction. The Chair volunteered to work with applicants individually to help them with concerns in this regard. Examples of creative applied learning / civic outreach activities will also be added to the GE website to assist applicants.
4. Articulation of GE guidelines with Assessment Committee, WASC Reaccreditation Steering Committee, and Strategic Plan.
   April discussed the upcoming WASC reaccreditation process and the piloting of the Lumina Degree Qualifications Profile by the UH System. April presented a matrix demonstrating the commonalities among our GE requirements, the Strategic Plan, the current WASC requirements, and the goals of the UH Hilo Strategic Plan. The committee noted that our GE requirements mesh well with many of the WASC requirements and goals articulated by the Strategic Plan. April discussed the importance of training in the new WASC requirements for members of the committee and encouraged members to attend the upcoming training in January in Honolulu.

5. Management of secure internal website and email site.
   Instead of using a secure internal website (which has been fraught with problems), the committee discussed using Google Docs in order to be able to view applications. Instead, the committee decided to go with “Drop Box.” April will update the website’s FAQ section with information regarding the recertification schedule and we will provide a section for sample applications, especially those for GCC.

   We may meet before the end of the semester if applications come in early. We will definitely meet in January just ahead of the deadline to start work. Members are encouraged to forward their Spring schedules to the Chair.

Additional Items:

Reaccreditation
   The committee discussed the recertification clock. Classes certified effective Fall 2011 will have to be recertified effective Fall 2016. This means they will have to be submitted to the GE Committee during the 2014-2015 cycle so that there will be no lapse in recertification. This is to be added to the website and sent out with the next call for applications.