

General Education Review Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 12, 2005

Dundalk campus

2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Members present: Mike Carroll, Linda Gronberg-Quinn, Mitchell Perkins, Precious Stone, Patricia Ferraris O'Neill, Linda Caplis, Penny Fanzone, David Ludwikoski, and Rose Mince

Members absent: Robert Jones

Guests: Al Starr, Donna Mandl, Steve Tanner

1. The Minutes from October 10 were approved as submitted.

Rose initiated the discussion of PLAW 101 - Introduction to Law - as a possible General Education course, remarking that the members should keep in mind that this could be the only course a student takes in this category and to consider whether this course will provide the depth and breadth of knowledge that the student needs. No one had any major problems with the proposal, a more detailed discussion followed when it was presented by Donna Mandl.

The proposed Associates Degree of Fine Arts (AFA) was on the agenda, with the goal of presenting the program to the Board of Trustees on the following Wednesday and getting it into the new catalog. MHEC has no definite requirements for the number of General Education credits in a program such as this. The new degrees will split arts and sciences into three tracks and allow for better advising and tracking of students. The three choices are AA, AS and AFA, the proposed AA and AS curriculums comply with CCBC's General Education requirements, the AFA does not.

The AFA was designed specifically to transfer into a BFA degree program but has only the minimum requirements of Gen Ed – 21 credits. By definition, AFA programs have to have at least 60% studio hours thereby limiting the number of Gen Ed credits that fit into the program. Montgomery College (MC) is the only two year college that has an AFA degree at this time.

Donna Mandl presented PLAW 101, explaining that knowledge of law is important for all students. The committee discussed the general criteria first and then the Social and Behavioral Sciences, Behavioral Science criteria. Suggestions were made under these categories related to the language of the objectives and suggestions that an objective be added to being out the activities that provide students with opportunities to look at issues from a variety of perspectives. This issue came up again while reviewing the last of the behavioral science criteria, underscoring the importance of adding that additional objective. The course was approved as a general education course pending the following revisions.

PLAW 101

- In the course description: start the sentence with...Introduction to Law provides...
- In the course description: third sentence: The students will learn...
- Objectives, use only one verb if possible, use higher level verb
- For course requirements, put in the language that is usually used with that phrase.
- Delete “weekly” from the assignments sentence
- With the topics, use roman numerals
- Put the number 7 after course requirements since it is assessment
- Add an objective that draws attention to looking at issues from a variety of perspectives.

Steve Tanner presented the AFA degree; he explained that, although he is a strong proponent of General Education courses, MHEC requires that an AFA degree program have at least 60% studio based courses. He explained that the development of this degree from the more amorphous arts and sciences category will allow the students to be better advised and would also allow for articulation agreements. Mike was interested in finding out how many students might be interested in this program, Steve explained that by looking at the number of students who noted an interest in the arts degree on their applications, the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation predicted that about 500 students would be interested in the degree.

Rose asked why the decision was made to limit the students’ choice to a course in information technology rather than allowing them to choose between an information technology course and a course in health and wellness, Steve indicated that it was the opinion of the faculty that the information technology courses would be more useful to these students and that he felt that the faculty responsible for the AFA degree program were in the best position to determine what is important for these students.

Linda asked if there was any information about the MC AFA degree program but apparently it is very new and is awaiting approval from MHEC.

Precious pointed out that THTR 155 is listed as a General Education course on the Academic Program Proposal form, Steven explained that this mistake would be corrected.

There was some discussion of whether being able to choose any course from the information technology category would be in the best interests of the students but, as Penny mentioned, the hope is that the development of this degree would result in better advising. Mike reiterated that he would like to see the students be able to choose a health

and wellness course. Another issue that was raised was the transferability of this degree. Steve felt certain that the AFA degree would transfer into any number of programs.

Submitted by Patricia Ferraris O'Neill

Addendum: February 6, 2006: Members of the General Education Review met with the faculty and administrators in the Liberal Arts division who prepared the Associate of Fine Arts proposal. In addition to the original proposal, the proposers submitted written information to further explain their research and their reasons for recommending each pattern of study. The AFA proposal was approved.