

Discovery Committee Minutes, February 16, 2011

Present: Barb White, Wayne Fagerberg, Sharyn Potter, Kathie Forbes, Christina Caiazza, Kathie Forbes, Lisa MacFarlane, Jeffrey Diefendorf, Art Greenberg, Michele Holt-Shannon, Monica Chiu, David Hiley (Absent: Bill Ross, Stephen Pugh)

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 2, 2011

The committee took the following action:

Motion: Art Greenberg moved, Wayne Fagerberg seconded, approval of the minutes of November 17, 2010.

Vote: 5 yes, 1 abstain, 0 no. **Motion passed.**

Motion: Monica Chiu moved, Art Greenberg seconded, approval of the minutes of December 8, 2010.

Vote: 5 yes, 1 abstain, 0 no. **Motion passed.**

The following courses were confirmed for Discovery in the category/attribute listed:

COLA

ENGL 585S – Sex & Sensibility – HUMA

IA 444 – Science Fiction & Society – HUMA, WI

(HUMA Vote: 4 yes, 1 abstain, 1 no; **WI Vote:** 5 yes, 1 abstain, 0 no.)

GEOG 574 – Geography of Landforms – PS

GERM 524 – German Cinema – HUMA

ENGL 531S – Intro to Drama - HUMA

UNHM

ENGL 522 – American Literary Folklore – HUMA – Table review of this course pending further information.

The following courses were not approved for Discovery:

Transfer Courses Reviewed

Italy – *Food Aesthetics (EcoGastronomy Program)* – HUMA - DC requests more info on this course.

Suffolk Univ – *IB101, Globalization* – WC – Approved.

The Committee discussed the following:

INQ Attribute on/off option: Whether a course can have the INQ attribute designation come off and on, such as with WI. The Associate Deans would prefer that the INQ A not be an off/on option. PHIL and other departments would like this to be an option. The Registrar has systems challenges around having an off/on option for INQ A. *Reminder:* there was long faculty discussion around the importance of being nimble and flexible. An administration moment should not trump what the faculty wants to do. Barb will draft a motion around this and send to the committee members for further input.

ME and ENGL 401: Informally, the DC was asked to consider whether Mechanical Engineering students could meet the Writing Skills requirement in Discovery through ENGL 502 (tech writing) instead of ENGL 401. The rationale for this request is the need for ME students to improve their writing skills (reportedly noted through the ABET accreditation process). The DC's perspective is that they would not look favorably on this request, should it come forward formally. The rationale for this being that ENGL 401 is a foundational course. It is skill building, including academic, persuasive, analytical, thesis, and research writing, and helps the student to develop good reading skills as well. Further, the ENGL department requires 401 as a pre-requisite to 502.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.