

## **Implementation Task Force Subcommittee on Core Courses and Global Awareness November 30, 2006—FH-128**

**Members Present:** Chris Blackwell (CL), Derek Parsons (MUS), John Shelley (REL), Tony Caterisano (HES), Kevin Treu (CS), Paul Wagenknecht (CHM),

**Members Absent:** Simon Lehtinen (Student), Will Walker (Student) , Kate Kaup (PS)

### **Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 by Chris Blackwell.

### **Discussion of the Humanities Proposal**

CGA discussed the proposal for a revised Humanities Sequence. What follows are initial thoughts based on this first conversation.

The members of the committee who were present were unanimously supportive of importing into the new curriculum some version of the existing Humanities sequence, and unanimously favorable toward this proposal, while realizing that it would raise some questions and present some challenges that the faculty will have to consider carefully.

Members brought up, to general agreement, certain points, of which those regarding the inclusion of the Fine Arts in the proposed sequence generated the most discussion:

\* The current scheduling of Hum 11, 12, and 13, at noon, precludes most music majors, since ensembles meet for practice then. So the new sequence should be scheduled with input from the music faculty to allow music majors to profit from it.

\* The committee suggests removing the word "potentially" from the current proposal, in regard to participation of Fine Arts faculty. This sequence *should* include faculty from the Humanities and Fine Arts. Participation by a faculty member from the Fine Arts would seem to be a *sine qua non* for a Humanities Sequence that earned the Visual and Performing Arts GER.

Regarding the awarding of GER credit, the committee would recommend the following procedure: As each group of four faculty members plans an instantiation of the 4-course Humanities Sequence, they should apply through the usual channels for the four Core Requirements, as well as either of the Global Awareness requirements. It would be understood that the Sequence *should* earn those GER's, but this would be an encouragement for faculty to think carefully, and articulate clearly, why *their* version of Humanities merits those GER's. It would also allow for more feedback from a wider community, as the program gets off the ground.

The members of CGA suggest that some consideration be given to awarding at least one FYS credit for students who undertake this sequence. We understand that this would require an exception to the current policies regarding FYS, and we assume that the current proposal as written did not include such a suggestion for this very reason. But the nature of the courses described in this proposal seemed to fit well with the spirit of the FYS program, and awarding FYS credit for students who complete at least the first year of the sequence would take some pressure off their schedule.

CGA discussed the question of students who do not complete the full sequence, for whatever reason. This is a concern, but not, we thought, a major one. Assuming that the majority of students who decide to drop out of the sequence will do so in their first year, CGA did not believe that they would be unduly harmed by having taken one or two classes that do not carry any GER credit.

After the meeting of October 19, some other comments came in by e-mail from members of the committee who were not present at the discussion. These follow:

*"Participation by a faculty member from the Fine Arts would seem to be a sine qua non for a Humanities Sequence that earned the Visual and Performing Arts GER."*

*I would avoid phrasing the point this way. This seems to contradict one of the primary points of the new curriculum -- to remove any necessary connection between departments or divisions and general requirement rubrics.*

*"The members of CGA suggest that some consideration be given to awarding at least one FYS credit for students who undertake this sequence. We understand that this would require an exception to the current policies regarding FYS ... awarding FYS credit for students who complete at least the first year of the sequence would take some pressure off their schedule."*

*I'm not sure what exceptions to the FYS policies the committee had in mind. But I would be worried about anything that would undermine the uniqueness of the freshman seminar experience (class size, emphasis on reflection and discussion rather than covering content, etc.). With any program like the FYS, there is a great danger that the course eventually will become just like other courses, and that the potential for revitalizing the curriculum will be lost. Loosening the course's definition from the beginning wouldn't bode well.*

### **Discussion of Milestones for Faculty Proposing New Courses**

The committee suggested the following steps, intended to help departments move along their processes for proposing new courses, revised courses, and existing courses for CGA credit.

\* By January 26, 2007: CGA will send a memo to all departments requesting a list of existing, revised, and new courses that each department intends to submit through the process. The request is for a simple list of courses by title, with an indication as to whether each is a new course, FYS or FYW, a revised course, or an existing course applying for CGA credit.

\* By February 2, 2007: Departments will respond with these lists to CGA, which will share them with ITF Steering, Curriculum, APC, and the Registrar.

\* CGA will request that departments plan to submit to the pipeline existing courses for CGA credit by March 16, 2007. As this deadline approaches, working from the Lists of February 2, CGA can send reminders to department chairs.

\* CGA will request that departments plan to submit new and revised courses, including FYS/FYW courses, applying for CGA credit by September 4, 2007. As this deadline approaches, working from the Lists of February 2, CGA can send reminders to department chairs.

### **Next Business**

CGA will not meet again until the Winter Term.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Blackwell