

Youngstown State University
GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Meeting: May 7th, 2013; 10:00 – 11:20 AM

Present: Palardy (Chair), Baker (student), Felix, Fuhrman, Rowlands, Shebat, Simonelli Tomhave.

Excused: Goldberg, O'Mansky, Reday, Sturuss

THTR PROPOSAL

Theater has withdrawn their proposal and may re-submit after revision to meet Gen Ed guidelines as well as those for their accrediting body.

ONLINE COURSE GEN ED APPROVAL

- The committee discussed the issue of Gen Ed input in the approval of Gen Ed courses, which are also being offered online.
- There is a new review process for Distance Education courses. Previously, all review and approval was done through Quality Matters, an external entity; however YSU has a backlog of courses awaiting review and has proposed an internal review process, which will not replace QM approval, but will help with clearing the bottleneck.
- There are currently Gen Ed courses being offered online. At least:
 - CMST 1545 – Jeff Tyus developed for online offering.
 - ENGL 1550 & 1551
 - GEOL lab? - There are kits available to help course developers build lab courses for offering online.
- Joe will contact Millie Rodriguez, Director of DE at YSU to ensure that GEN ED standards are being met in the DE approval process.

GEN ED SURVEY

A survey on Faculty Perception of Gen Ed was piloted to selected faculty on campus. The survey was developed using JOTFORM instead of Survey Monkey because it allowed better “branching”. Branching is crucial because it allows the survey to direct the “taker” to appropriate areas for their input (Domain) instead of having them navigate the whole survey, which is rather lengthy.

Data Specifics:

- Number of students enrolled in course sections is required to allow appropriate weighting.
- The survey LOs come straight out of Gen Ed guidelines
- The survey is not asking for student grades, but an evaluation of student mastery or level of performance on specific course requirements.

- As most Gen Ed courses are now lower division, mastery/expectations will be limited with regard to synthesis.

Additions to Survey

- Ask “takers” if they have expectations of students in their higher-level courses, that they will be able to apply concepts/LOs from lower-division Gen Ed courses – i.e. value-added so that higher-level courses would be building on former knowledge.
- Ask “takers” what they were looking for in terms of LOs and how well did students meet them.
- We will need to figure out how to distinguish between Full-time vs Part-time faculty, perhaps by adding to the demographics section of the survey.
- Have “takers” self-evaluate their own knowledge of the Gen Ed program, guidelines and purpose.

Although the survey dissemination was planned for summer, YSU’s limited course offerings and faculty presence in this semester might limit the pool. The survey will be conducted in the fall semester instead.

Respectfully submitted,
Zara C. Rowlands