

**Academic Foundations Committee
Minutes**

October 18, 2005

Present:	Mark Hardt Connie Landis Sandie Rietz Chelsey McCollum (student)	Susan Gilbertz Noreen Lee Bruce Brumley Curtis Sherrodd (student)
Absent:	Randall Gloege – <i>excused</i> Russ Lord – <i>ex-officio</i> John Cech – <i>ex-officio</i> Mary Susan Fishbaugh – <i>ex-officio</i> George White – <i>ex-officio</i>	Abbas Heiat – <i>excused</i> Tasneem Khaleel – <i>ex-officio</i> Kirk Lacy – <i>ex-officio</i> Joe Michels – <i>ex-officio</i> Curt Kochner – <i>ex-officio</i>
Guests:	Emily Valenzuela (student)	Seth Berglee (student)
Presiding:	Mark Hardt, Chair	

Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in Library 231.

The minutes of September 13 were accepted as presented.

I. Discussion/Action Items

A. Submissions

Susan Gilbertz presented for Category IV. History and Cultural Diversity, beginning with the History subcategory.

Item 8 HIST 204 United States History to 1877

Item 8.a HIST 205 United States History since 1877

Item 8.b POLS 221 International Relations

Item 8.c HIST 104 History of World Civilization to 1500

Item 8.d HIST 105 History of World Civilization since 1500

Item 8.e HIST 106 Honors: Western Civilization to 1500

Item 8.f HIST 107 Honors: Western Civilization since 1500

Dr. Gilbertz said the subcommittee noted HIST 204 and 205 are fine courses. POLS 221 covers a lot of history in order to understand the issues. HIST 104 and 105 are also good fits to Academic Foundations. An issue arose with the two honors history courses, HIST 106 and 107. The Honors Program wants to have those two courses taken together as satisfying both the History *and* Cultural Diversity subcategories. These courses mainly cover Greek and Roman history and not much else. They don't really meet the spirit of the cultural diversity category. The Honors Program is opposed to changing these courses to

include more cultures. The other issue is: do we want courses in Academic Foundations that are just for one program? We do want good students, and this would be a small concession to that.

A clear position to take would be to accept either HIST 106 or 107 in the history category, but not in the cultural diversity category. It was noted that if there is not any difference between the other history courses and these two honors courses, they should not apply to cultural diversity. It was observed that the other courses actually have more cultural diversity than the honors courses.

It was cited that the Committee could accept all the courses but add an asterisk for the two honors courses stating that they do not apply to cultural diversity.

- Motion by Susan Gilbertz, seconded by Bruce Brumley to accept all submissions in the History Category (Items 8, 8.a, 8.b, 8.c, 8.d, 8.e, and 8.f) and those courses will only fulfill the history category requirement.

- Motion carried with one opposed.

Susan Gilbertz then presented for Category IV. History and Cultural Diversity, Cultural Diversity subcategory.

Item 9 SOCL 211 Cultural Anthropology

Item 9.a A&SC/SOCL 250 Women, Culture and Society

Item 9.b SPAN 150 The Hispanic Tradition

Item 9.c NAMS 181 Introduction to Native American Studies

Item 9.d NAMS 211 Social Issues of the Native American

Item 9.e PHIL 105 The Religious Quest

Item 9.f GEOG 102 World Geography

Item 9.g GEOG 120 Environment and Culture

Item 9.h MUSC 150 Musics of the World

Item 9.i ART 131 Global Visual Culture

Item 9.j COMT 160 Introduction to Intercultural Communication

Item 9.k ENGL 260 World Foundations of Literature

Item 9.L REHA 201 Introduction to Diversity

Item 9.m HHP 420 (HON 492) Global Health Issues

Dr. Gilbertz reported that the subcommittee found SOCL 211, A&SC/SOCL 250, SPAN 150, NAMS 181, and NAMS 211 all to be good fits for Academic Foundations. There was an issue with PHIL 105 because no specific religions are mentioned in the syllabus. Students who took this course have said it is only Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. It was noted that there are other religions listed in the course description and in the matrix, but not in the syllabus. It seems this course is more focused on self-discovery than on other cultures. It was cited that if they are claiming they are teaching something when they are not, they will run into issues with assessment.

Dr. Gilbertz further noted that GEOG 102 and 120 were accepted and she did not vote as those are her courses. The subcommittee also accepted MUSC 150, ART 131, and COMT 160.

ENGL 260 was surprisingly questionable for the Cultural Diversity subcategory because this course is primarily western. Curtis Sherrodd noted that he took this course and the variety of literature is dependent on the instructor. In his class, they covered all kinds of things, many of which were not on the syllabus. It was observed that the syllabus should be revised to reflect that variety, especially for assessment, and the committee would do well to provide plenty of feedback to the department for the revision.

Dr. Gilbertz reported that the subcommittee accepted REHA 201 as it covers the physical diversity of humans. The subcommittee decided not to accept HHP 420/HON 492 because it is a 400-level course. However, the Department of Health and Human Performance is willing to make it a 200-level course. Should we ask the department to resubmit?

- Motion by Sandie Rietz, seconded by Bruce Brumley that PHIL 105 (Item 9.e), ENGL 260 (Item 9.k), and HHP 420/HON 492 (Item 9.m) be remanded back to the departments for appropriate revision as per this committee's recommendations.

Someone needs to be the contact person to visit with the departments and explain the Committee's concerns. Susan Gilbertz volunteered, as did Sandie Rietz.

- Motion carried.

It was noted that departments may change their syllabi and still teach the course however they want. It was responded that what is driving this revision is assessment. They have to teach what they say they will in the syllabus or MSU-B will have some serious issues to contend with.

- Motion by Noreen Lee, seconded by Sandie Rietz to accept the remaining cultural diversity courses (Items 9, 9.a, 9.b, 9.c, 9.d, 9.f, 9.g, 9.h, 9.i, 9.j, and 9.L) as acceptable.

- Motion carried.

The Committee agreed that after all submissions have been discussed, there will be a final second reading of the approved courses.

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.