

EPC – Minutes

Dec. 1, 2000

Attending: Deborah Bebout, Ruth Beck, Paula Blank, Eric Bradley, Cory Butler, Maryse Fauvel, Joan Gavalier, Satoshi Ito, Tom Payne, Constance Pilkington, and Darlene Crouch, permanent secretary for the committee.

Special Guests: James Baron (CIV), Don Baxter (GOVT), Susan Bosworth (ASSESSMENT), John Charles (KIN), Beatrice Guenther (MLL), Tamara Sonn (REL), and Sharon Zuber (ENG/Writing Center)

Dean Barbara Watkinson, Chair of EPC, called the meeting to order at 11:35 am in Tucker 114.

The minutes from November 17, 2000 were approved.

A. GER 7 Assessment Report:

James Baron and John Charles gave a brief overview of the knowledge and attitudes of the GER 7 Assessment Report (document attached). James Baron stated that there was a lack of courses offered for GER 7, and an effort needs to be made to encourage every department to offer a GER 7 course.

In most regards the GER7 criteria—three required objectives—are being successfully met. One objective, that pertaining to "active critical analysis of evaluative and/or ethical theories," scores below the other two, however. The data suggest there are two ways of explaining this: a) classes taught by non tenured or non tenured-eligible faculty include fewer opportunities for active critical analysis, and b) class size of over 27 students is generally too large. The GER 7 Assessment Committee commented on the absence of a significant number of portfolios, about 25% of the total number of courses/sections, and its correlation of lower student evaluations. To access the GER 7 working group suggestions see attached document (III. Overall Assessment, pg 6)

B. GER 4 Assessment

Don Baxter, Beatrice Guenther, and Tamara Sonn, members of the GER 4 Assessment

working group met with the EPC to clarify the objectives of the GER 4 requirement.

Question 1: The World Cultures and History GER is designated to introduce students to major ideas, institution, **and** historical events that have shaped human societies. Everyone agreed that **and** included all three of these areas.

Question 2: In the Definition and Elaboration of criteria, how to interpret point 4, "using disciplinary or interdisciplinary theoretical frameworks, they focus on a European or a non-European tradition, ... or explore topics comparatively across traditions." After discussion it was decided that they should focus more on thought within a theoretical context.

Question 3: Which of the three categories of GER 4 does this course satisfy and why? The working group questioned how to interrupt 1C. Cross-Cultural Issues (these courses deal with a comparative

approach and the cross-fertilization of ideas, institutions, and cultures primarily between European and non-European traditions). After discussion it was decided that they should emphasize primarily and the comparative side of different cultures.

Sharon Zuber, Director of the Writing Center discussed the Goals that need to be presented to the Faculty at the Dec. 5, 2000 meeting. Closure on the Writing Committee guidelines need to be presented along with the goals to help instructors who teach lower-level writing courses. The Goals and Objectives accepted by EPC and presented to the Faculty in May 2000 in the committee's final report. This section of the report was postponed for further discussion.

A time sheet grid was passed out to members to fill out for next semester.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Crouch, Secretary