

UGE Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2003

Present: Linda Alexander (Chair), Betsy Cauble, Greg Davis, Bronwyn Fees, Jim Goddard, Marjorie Hancock, Peter Mudrack, Pat Pesci, Reginald Pittman, Susanne Siepl-Coates, Marv Willyard, Patricia Marsh and Bari Arieli.

Missing: Kathy Brockway, Steve Harbstreit, Marlon Johnston, John Schlup, and Sheri Smith.

Minutes from April '03. The council approved the March minutes as is.

Curricula forwarded to academic affair. The chair reported to the council that she had forwarded all curricula to the Academic Affair committee.

UGE course tracking table. The chair gave the council members a copy of the current draft of this spreadsheet. This draft includes all courses we have on file.

SPCH 470. A copy of this course will be sent electronically and put on the website. Council members are asked to vote electronically.

UGE courses surveyed in spring 2003. These courses were discussed. Here are some of the major concerns that were brought up:

AMET 160 - There were some students' problematic comments to one instructor. Betsy suggested that as long as the instructor knows about these comments, the council may approve the course.

BIOL 198 – this course seems to encounter major problems with the UGE

teaching principles. One suggestion was to talk to the instructors themselves. Betsy said that this course is suggested to go from a 4-hours class to a 5-hours class by adding one hour of review section. The review section has shown to help students succeed in the exam, which is written by the same three faculty members that designed the course curriculum. Betsy added that in most community colleges this is a 5-hours course. This course has so many students, that it looks more like a "factory class" than a UGE class.

Marv thought that the main problem with this course is a matter of students' learning styles. Betsy suggested that there should be some discussion between the instructors of how this UGE course has to be taught. Linda thought that it might be better to talk to Jerry Reeck and to the chair of the Biology department before talking to the instructors.

A decision was made to assign team 2, including Linda (and maybe also John Schlup) to try and solve the problem with this course.

CHEM 110 – This course got a very low response rate (21% only). Linda will call the department head to find out the reasons for it. This course was put on-hold for now.

CHEM 210 – This course got also a low response rate (33%).

Linda suggested calling the Chemistry department head to talk with him about faculty issues and low response rate.

Team 3 was assigned to try and solve the problems with this course.

GEOL 100 – From reading students' comments it seems that cheating was going on in one of the sections. Linda will pass the council's concerns regarding cheating to the department head.

Other sections of this course didn't have any problems, and so the council approved the course.

The UGE council approved the following courses:

AMETH 160
ARCH 740
ART 560
BIOCH 265
CHEM 230
ECON 523

GEOG 200
GEOG 310
GEOG 500
GEOL 100

The following courses are on hold:

BIOL 198
CHEM 110
CHEM 210

Ad Hoc committee for UGE courses. Betsy updated the Council members of the committee's thoughts regarding how does the UGE process fit in K-State. One problem that was discussed in the committee was that instructors are so busy "checking boxes" in their teaching that they forget the components of UGE. Another problem is that resources that were promised to faculty for teaching UGE courses are not available. Marv thought that the discussion should be more about how we teach in general and not only for UGE classes. Jim said that faculty should be encouraged to go through processes of changing teaching styles.

The discussion brought up Phase I of the assessment, which included writing portfolios, critical thinking, senior exit interviews and alumni surveys. All these haven't been done for the last two or three years. This used to be a very powerful tool. Betsy thought that the writing assessment tools were not very successful. Bronwyn suggested that writing assessment should be an integral part of the class requirements. Betsy thought that some instructors weigh how much important are UGE teaching requirements versus the content. Jim mentioned that the courses offered by the college of Engineering are very different from those of the College of Arts and Sciences. Susanne said that in the College of Architecture, Planning and Design there are some courses that are general.

Bronwyn said that maybe our timing is an issue: maybe we need to wait few years till alumni find out whether their degree helped getting a job and/or become more educated persons rather than interviewing students while they are still taking these classes.

Jim thought that his department should emphasize academic integrity.

The council agreed that that Betsy, as the council's representative in the Ad-Hoc committee, would forward the minutes of this committee through Linda to the council members.

University-wide senior survey. The council accepted Patricia's suggestion to see the results of the university wide senior survey.

Reminders.

1. Our May meeting will be dealing with course evaluations, and therefore will take more time than the usual. Please plan on a meeting that will take about two hours.
2. The council's teams are as following:
 - **Team 1**: Bronwyn Fees*, Sheri Smith, Jim Goddard, John Schlup.
 - **Team 2**: Greg Davis*, Steve Harbstreit, Susanne sieple-Coats, Marlon Johnston.
 - **Team 3**: Marjorie Hancock, Pat Pesci, Peter Mudrack. Reginald Pittman.
 - **Team 4**: Betsy Cauble*, Linda Alexander, Kathy Brockway, Marv Willyard.

* Contact person

Submitted by:
Bari Arieli
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