

UNIVERSITY of
NORTHERN COLORADO



General Education Council
College of Arts and Sciences

MEMORANDUM

TO: Allen Huang
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

FROM: Phil Klein
Chair, General Education Council

DATE: October 22, 2003

SUBJECT: Withdrawal of MCS 101 and WS 101 from State GE Core Nomination Process

On behalf of the General Education Council, thank you for visiting our meeting on October 7 and informing the Council personally of your decision to withdraw these two courses from the current round of nominations for the State Guarantee General Education Designation. We appreciate that your decision was taken upon the request of CCHE and understand your explanation that these courses were withdrawn because they were deemed to be unique.

Nevertheless, the GEC wishes to express its concern about this decision. We are troubled by two aspects of this alteration of the original list of courses submitted for this round of nominations.

First, because the Council is the faculty governing body responsible for general education, we believe that consultation with us prior to the decision to withdraw the courses would have been desirable. This would be in keeping with the policy of shared governance that is essential to administration of the general education program.

Second, and perhaps more critically, the GEC is not swayed by CCHE's argument that the uniqueness of a course should be grounds for removal from consideration for state transfer designation. Although there is no specific category for interdisciplinary courses in the state program, the GEC believes that the Social and Behavioral Science category entitled *Historical, Cultural, or Social Frameworks*, under which these two courses were submitted, allows room for general education courses that focus on cross-disciplinary perspectives on issues like ethnicity and gender. Such courses are an important component of UNC's GE program (Category 7).

The GEC would have preferred to see these courses go through the nomination process and be reviewed on their merits, according to the criteria specified by the state, rather than having them withdrawn without ever receiving such consideration. We anticipate that the programs responsible for these courses will seek to nominate these courses again, so this issue needs to be clarified with CCHE prior to the next round of nominations.

Thank you again for your willingness to work with GEC on these matters. We would welcome further discussion of our concerns prior to the next round of submissions to the State Guarantee General Education Designation in 2004.

Cc: Dean Sandra Flake
Dick Dietz, Chair, Faculty Senate
Subject
Chron