

Memorandum

TO: Dr. Francis Battisti, EVP, CAO

CC: Dr. Harold Trimm, Kenneth Mansfield

FROM: Kim McLain, Ph.D., General Education Committee Chair

DATE: May 17, 2018

RE: Review of CHM 128

On May 10, 2018, the General Education Committee voted unanimously (6/0) that CHM 128, submitted by Dr. Harold Trimm, does not fit the SUNY-GER Natural Science General Education category.

On April 26, 2018, Dr. Trimm presented his course to the committee. At that time, the committee reviewed and discussed with Dr. Trimm that the course SLOs as listed on the assessment plan do not meet all of the SUNY GER objectives for the Natural Sciences category. Specifically, SUNY GER objective #1 was not addressed.

The SUNY GER objectives for the Natural Sciences category are listed as follows:

- 1. Understanding of the methods scientists use to explore natural phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and employment of mathematical analysis; and*
- 2. Application of scientific data, concepts, and models in one of the natural (or physical) sciences.*

Dr. Trimm stated that his course does meet objective #1 as he provides his students with an overview of the methods scientists utilize in a general manner. At that time, the committee recommended to Dr. Trimm to revise the course SLOs so that they better capture the SUNY GER objectives, if he does indeed believe that his course provides this overview. It was explained to Dr. Trimm, using the SUNY *Guidelines for the Approval of State University General Education Requirement Courses* that a Natural Sciences General Education course: “must clearly demonstrate: how methods listed in the learning outcomes are used; a rationale for the discipline in the natural sciences drawn upon for concepts and models’ and the majority of texts used fall clearly within the natural sciences.” The committee explained that both SUNY objectives, as listed above, must be met in order for a course to be considered to meet all the SUNY GER guidelines for that category. Dr. Trimm was provided with a copy of these guidelines prior to and during our discussion. There is also a copy of these guidelines on the General Education website.

The committee discussed that if course SLOs were to be revised they would need to also be put forth to Curriculum Committee for review and approval. I also discussed this issue with Dr. Trimm via several emails and offered assistance in reviewing any revisions to course SLOs to help them better capture the SUNY GER objectives. I offered assistance with revision of SLOs prior to submission to the Curriculum Committee. These guidelines and the above discussion were reiterated in an email I sent to Dr. Trimm on 4/27/18.

Dr. Trimm emailed me an updated assessment plan on May 9, 2018. He informed me that he had already submitted these revised course SLOs to the Curriculum Committee to be presented on 5/17/18. I brought this revised assessment plan with proposed course SLOs to the General Education Committee for review on May 10, 2018. The committee reviewed the course proposal submitted by Dr. Trimm on 5/10/18, along with the revised assessment plan and course SLOs submitted via email. The committee agreed that these revised course SLOs still do not meet the SUNY GER objective #1. As listed within the assessment plan (see attached), all course SLOs only map to learning outcome #2 on the SUNY GER Guidelines. Learning outcome #1 still has not been addressed. The submitted proposal with revised course SLOs, submitted to me via email is also attached to this memo.

Additionally, the SUNY Dashboard (<http://system.suny.edu/academic-affairs/acaproplan/general-education/general-education-dashboards/>) was reviewed to aid us in our decision and the committee was unable to find another similar course offered as a General Education within the SUNY system. The committee felt that the specialized focus of this particular course would not transfer to other institutions as the students would not have gained the foundational knowledge that is meant to provide students in the General Education curriculum within the category. It is our understanding that CHM 128 will be part of a 2+2 agreement with Cornell. However, the committee was unable to find a comparable course at Cornell in order for this course to be accepted as a transfer course.

It is the recommendation of the General Education Committee that this course, while a valuable course for the students on our campus, does not meet the SUNY GER objectives.

The committee would like to thank Dr. Trimm for allowing us the opportunity to review this excellent course and hopes that he will consider some of the above suggestions to potentially again present this course to the committee at a future date.

We look forward to your final review and decision regarding whether or not CHM 128 will become a SUNY Broome Community College General Education course.

Sincerely,

Kim McLain

Attachment: CH 128 Proposal with Assessment Plan