General Education Program Committee
Minutes
24 January 2005

Present: Chuck Booth, Hope Cook, Richard Jones-Bamman, Maggie Martin, Delar Singh, Carol Williams, Nancy Slater (ex-officio)

1. Review and acceptance of draft minutes 8 December 2004 with modification to strike Carol Williams’ name from members present (Jones-Bamman, Booth)

2. Old Business Forums and Working Groups
Reports from the last working groups of the fall semester were presented. Information literacy, natural sciences, math and culture working group information was presented. Working groups that would like to continue to refine their proposals are encouraged to meet. The compilation of all the working documents is posted on the GEPC web site.

3. GEPC Consultant
Dr. Andrea Leskes, Vice President of the Association of American Colleges and Universities presented information to faculty at the spring university meeting. Her consultation to the Committee was seen as valuable. Media Services will produce a videotape and DVD of her presentation which will be made available to the University community as soon as possible.

4. Spring Planning: Design Groups
Dr. Leskes suggested that we consider the use of design groups for the next stage of our curriculum development. Such groups have been used successfully by Salve Regina (http://www.salve.edu/) and St. Mary’s University, Texas (http://www.stmarytx.edu/). The Committee discussed how such an approach might be used at Eastern. The Committee agreed that we would post a request for proposals, encouraging individual or groups of faculty or students to propose new curriculum models. The designers would be directed to address the “Core Principles”, our mandates, and refer to the working group documents for direction. Maggie will draft a document that supports the call for proposals including a philosophy statement. A tentative schedule was proposed: presentation request for proposal and faculty forum: February 7; presentation of draft curricula: March 14; refined proposal presentation: April 4. This approach will yield the most innovative proposals allowing full faculty participation and choice of the best approach.

5. Student Engagement
Students will be encouraged to submit curriculum proposals and to debate the models. Our student representative will be asked to work with Student Government on this process.

6. First Year Program
Tabled.

New Business

7. Communication
Dr. Leskes suggested that the Committee produce a printed newsletter highlighting its activities and providing information to the University community. Hope Cook volunteered to author a newsletter for the Committee and will draft a first issue for Committee review at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The next GEPC meeting will be Monday, January 31 at 2:00 p.m. in Webb 258.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Martin, Chair