Present: Chuck Booth, Hope Cook, Richard Jones-Bamman, Maggie Martin, David Pellegrini, Carol Williams, Bob Wolf, Nancy Slater (ex-officio)

1. Minutes
   Minutes of the 31 January 2005 (Jones-Bamman, Cook) and 7 February (Booth, Williams) were approved.

2. Proposal Development
   Hope Cook proposed a general education program based upon “An Awareness and Understanding of Global Issues of the 21st Century”. The proposal included 15-16 credits of Tier I courses, 12 credits of Tier II courses based on a choice of four of five theme courses which included Gender Perspectives and Cross Cultural Explorations; Ethics, Technology and Social Policy; Wealth, Power and Inequity; Environmental and Conservation Issues; and War and Peace. Tier III is an experiential tier including community volunteer experience, foreign travel or presentation of research. Tier IV is a capstone course in the major.

   A discussion ensued regarding the importance of community service and how Portland State has implemented team-based community projects. Committee members supported active community involvement and discussed how foreign travel may support student learning.

   Members discussed and brainstormed another approach to general education program, Tier 0 would include Math, Foreign Language and Information Technology skills which would be assessed by testing. If competency is not demonstrated, students would take a remedial course or courses to achieve the preferred level. Tier I courses would focus on acquiring knowledge, understanding new ways of knowing, learning the methodologies of various disciplines, and learning experientially. Courses in this tier would include: Natural and Social Sciences, English, Arts and Humanities, Math, History, Ethics and the First Year Program (25-28 credits).

   Tiers II and III build upon the foundation competencies and ways of knowing. Tier II is integrative, focuses on social problems from local and global contexts. This tier contains thematic courses linked to Natural Sciences, Quantitative Analysis, Social Sciences and Culture. Tier III focuses on community service and the capstone courses within the major. It fosters student engagement, independence, application of knowledge and skills, and contribution to the community, society, and the world.

3. Presentation to Faculty February 23
   The GEPC will present its first plan for the general education program at a faculty forum on February 23 in Webb 110.

New Business

4. Curriculum Committee
   The University Senate Executive Committee has requested information from the Curriculum Committee regarding the process of approval of a new general education program. Bob Wolf, chair of the Curriculum Committee noted that that committee cannot approve concepts. Curriculum Committee must approve concrete program and curriculum proposals. The Curriculum Committee will discuss the question at its next meeting on 15 February 2005.

5. Survey of Departments re Common Core of Learning
   Tabled.

Next Meeting: The next GEPC meeting will be Monday, February 21 at 10:30 a.m. in Webb 437.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Martin, Chair