General Education Program Committee
Minutes
4 April 2005

Present: Chuck Booth, Hope Cook, Richard Jones-Bamman, Maggie Martin, Delar Singh, Bob Wolf, Nancy Salter (ex-officio)

1. Minutes
   Minutes of the meetings of 18 March 2005 (Booth, Singh) were moved and approved as presented.

Old Business

2. Schedule of meetings and tasks: Spring 2005
   There are five more scheduled meetings of the GEPC before the end of the semester (April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9). The Committee would like to complete a non-binding faculty referendum on the general education proposal prior to the end of the semester. Prior to this a second draft must be distributed to faculty, opportunity provided for input, a potential survey on opinions related to physical education produced and administered, and a final draft produced.

   Bob discussed the next steps toward formal acceptance of a program. We anticipate that the GEPC will describe implementation mechanisms and be prepared to present the full general education proposal to the Curriculum Committee in fall 2005. Following passage of the program, the Curriculum Committee will bring the proposal to the University Senate. If approved, the program will be submitted to the CSU Board of Trustees as a major program modification.

   It was suggested that the GEPC chair meet with the chair of the Curriculum Committee, the three deans, President of University Senate and Vice President of Academic Affairs to refine and clarify procedures.

3. Proposal Development
   The committee reviewed a revised draft for modification.

   Members held that the label Tier 0 should be removed as these areas reflect competencies we assume students have upon entering Eastern, and are not part of the general education program. Foreign language competency should be removed at sent to the Academic Affairs Committee for review and decisionmaking.

   The following decisions were made about Tier I. Within the beginning description of each tier, the categories within should be identified prior to explication. The first year colloquium and seminar should be titled: First Year Colloquium and Academic Seminar, coupled as a three credit and 1 credit offering. More refined outcomes must be articulated for this section. The first Arts and Humanities section will be re-titled Literature and Thought (David Frye will be contacted). The College Writing section should contain the objectives previously approved for this program. No new decisions were made regarding a health and wellness category. Maggie has contacted Bob Horrocks regarding whether a proposal modification may be forthcoming. The title History will be changed to Historical Perspectives (David Frye will be contacted). New language for Tier I and Tier II Natural Sciences category has been submitted by the Environmental Earth Science faculty. This has been included in this draft. The title Mathematics will be replaced by Quantitative Literacy (Marsha Davis will be contacted). Some of the learning outcomes which are more conceptual and less able to be evaluated will be inserted in a descriptive paragraph in this section.

   The Tier II category will be renamed Evaluation and Synthesis, and Tier III, titled Reflection and Application. Learning outcomes in Tier III must be developed. An approach to allow multiple models for the Tier III culminating experience was discussed. It was suggested that we promote the development of multiple culminating capstone experiences. Each major may determine whether or not to require a specific course or type of course for their students to achieve this requirement. Multiple approaches may emerge. Some departments may choose to jointly host culminating seminars. Others may require their majors to complete a specific culminating experience but may open the course to minors or to other students.

4. Faculty Feedback
Computer Science students submitted essays to the Committee supporting a computer science requirement.

Russ Sampson suggested that we describe a typical course sequence for various majors, and if possible to produce a simulation.

3. Communication: Students and Faculty
   The next draft of the general education program should be submitted to the Student Government Association for comment.

4. First Year Program
   Maggie reported on the first year program study group which has visited three colleges. The comprehensiveness of the first year programs and student support services were inspirational. The multi-model approach used by Wagner College for their senior seminars was discussed.

New Business

5. Faculty Referendum
   The area of the program most contested is the health and wellness requirement. The committee discussed posting an electronic survey that will ask faculty their positions on no requirement or a three or two credit health and/or physical education requirement. A two credit requirement may be for an integrated academic and experiential course which promoted health and demonstrated activities that are empirically known to enhance cardiovascular fitness and optimal weight.

6. New GEPC Members
   Tabled to the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The next GEPC meeting will be Monday, 11 April at 2:00 p.m. in Webb 258.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Martin, Chair