General Education Program Committee
Minutes
2 May 2005

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

1. Minutes
   Minutes of the 25 April 2005 meeting were moved and approved (Singh, Jones-Bamman).

Old Business

2. Proposal Development
   The Committee reviewed results and comments from the survey. Each area was reviewed and discussed.
   
   For Health and Wellness, the Committee agreed to include a two-credit requirement in Tier I. For Computer Science, the Committee accepted a proposal to implement an integrative, Tier II course in applied information technology. Courses in this section could be hosted by a variety of disciplines. Courses such as computer modeling with Stella, GIS applications, Educational Technologies, Electronic Music, and other areas could be taught in this category. Courses will insure that students critically employ information technologies to solve problems in society.
   
   A language requirement was discussed. The Committee felt favorably toward policies that required that students could speak a language other than English, however it was not certain that the MCL proposal would assure this. The Committee recommends that the Academic Affairs Committee review the MCL proposals, the GEPC recommendation of increasing our entrance requirement to three years of high school foreign language study, and Eastern’s overall approach to language instruction and requirements.

3. Referendum and Forum
   Committee members suggested to the Senate Organization Committee that the referendum be held from Wednesday, May 5 at 5:00 p.m. to Wednesday, May 12 at 5:00 p.m. The content will be a simple, yes/no question about the proposal with a comment section for the entire proposal and comment sections for each of the tiers. Faculty will be informed that this proposal will be edited for clarity and coherence, but that changes in structure or content will not be made.
   
   A faculty forum will be held in the Faculty Lounge, Webb Hall, on Wednesday, May 4 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. The committee proposal and results of the survey will be posted on our Web site at that time.

New Business

4. NEASC Fifth-Year Report
   The Committee reviewed the language of the draft NEASC Fifth-Year Report regarding the general education program. There was a sense that the rationale provided for the failure of the previous GEPC proposal may not have been accurate as there were multiple causes for the result. Maggie will contact June Bisantz-Evans with our feedback.

5. Assessment Grants
   Assessment grants are due on Monday May 8. Maggie suggested a proposal from the Committee to develop the critical thinking component of the proposed general education curriculum.

6. May-June Meetings
   Tabled.

7. Other Business
   No other business raised.

8. Next Meeting: The next GEPC meeting will be Monday, 9 May at 2:00 p.m. in Webb 258.
Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Martin, Chair