General Education Program Committee  
Minutes  
6 June 2005

Present: Chuck Booth, Hope Cook, Maggie Martin, Nancy Salter (ex-officio), Delar Singh, Carol Williams, Robert Wolf

1. Review and acceptance of draft minutes of 9 May 2005
   Minutes of the meeting of 2 May 2005 were corrected to include Carol Williams in attendance. The minutes were moved and approved (Booth, Cook).

Old Business

2. Review of referendum and comments
   Committee members reviewed and discussed the comments provided by faculty in the referendum. The comments will be posted on our web page.

3. Correspondence
   A letter was received from Dr. Jaime Gomez, chair of the First Year Program Committee (FYPC), requesting information about the GEPC’s conceptualization of the first year colloquium and academic skills seminar and how our Committee and the FYPC may collaborate. The Committee is eager to collaborate with the FYPC and will send a reply to Dr. Gomez detailing our vision of these two courses.
   A letter of appreciation was received from Dr. Michael Pernal.

New Business

4. Committee Chair
   In order to facilitate fall planning and course scheduling, the Committee was asked to select a chair for the 2005-2006 academic year. Nominations were opened. Maggie Martin was nominated and no other names entered. One ballot was cast for her candidacy (Booth, Singh). Unanimous approval.

5. Implementation Planning
   The Committee discussed the essential steps remaining to formally implement the new general education program. The proposal will be sent to the Curriculum Committee early in the fall semester, and, if approved, the Curriculum Committee will bring its recommendation to the full Senate as a bill.

   Discussion ensued regarding the processes necessary for general education course approvals. Members suggested that the First Year Colloquium be considered as one course with a common course number, goals, and approaches. Bob Wolf, chair of the Curriculum Committee (CC), indicated that this approach may be unusual and challenging regarding current CC processes. It was suggested that a joint meeting of the two committees be scheduled early in the fall to discuss the processes for approval of new general education courses.

   Other members of the University community must be informed about, and engaged with, the processes of general education reform. Administrators, especially personnel from the Registrar’s Office must be involved with the GEPC. Carol Williams suggested that the GEPC discuss our proposal with the Administrative Operations and AAAR Committees. Other contacts should be made with the Deans, Association of Department Chairs and the Student Government Association.

   Other unfinished business from the spring semester includes the need to assist the Senate review of the Modern Language proposal and to clarify the Technological Literacy competency standards.

   The Committee recommends that the Health and Wellness requirement be met by all students during their first 30 credits. Because activities are integrated into a primarily academic course, the Committee did not anticipate that waivers would be given for this course. If activities became part of an active learning component of sections of this course, students with health problems must be
accommodated. The Committee will meet with the faculty of HPE and other faculty interested in teaching in this area to discuss the composition of courses in this area and transition policies.

The Committee reviewed a preliminary implementation agenda and agreed that the new curriculum should be implemented in Fall 2007. This will provide sufficient time for faculty, new course, and policy and procedure development.

6. First Year Program
The GEPC will work with the FYPC to integrate the new general education program with the First Year Program. The GEPC reiterated the importance of the first year colloquium and academic seminar to the success of the general education program. The Committee discussed the need to offer faculty sufficient compensation to develop and offer the colloquia and seminars and the need to establish high standards, opportunities for creativity, and status for these courses. The academic seminars may be linked to the colloquia or to other first year program clusters, but should focus on the acquisition of essential academic skills. The information literacy program should be linked to these seminars. A letter describing our ideals will be sent to Dr. Gomez.

7. Critical Thinking Assessment Grant
The critical thinking assessment grant has been funded by the CSU system. We will begin to recruit faculty to develop this area of the ger in the fall. The Committee discussed how we would begin a similar development strategy for the ethics across the curriculum component. Barbara Wright will be invited to attend the next Committee meeting to discuss her ideas regarding this curriculum area and the topic of outcomes assessment for the ger.

8. Thanks to Kevin Gill
The Committee thanks Kevin Gill for his assistance with our work. A letter will be sent to Kevin.

9. Dr. Carter
Dr. Carter has asked to meet with the Committee chair. The Committee will invite Dr. Carter to one of our June meetings to discuss our plans for implementation.

10. Next Meeting: The next GEPC meeting will be Monday, 13 June, 9:30 a.m., in Webb 258.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Martin, Chair