Present: Chuck Booth, Hope Cook, Richard Jones-Bamman, Margaret E. Martin, David Pellegrini, Delar Singh, Carol Williams, Nancy Salter (ex-officio)

1. Review and acceptance of draft minutes 16 June 2004 (Singh, Booth)

Old Business

2. GEPC Web page development

The GEPC Web page was completed and launched on June 17. David Pellegrini posted the first question on the electronic forum. To date there has only been one response to the survey and no responses to the forum. Members thought that many faculty were not checking e-mail and suggested that the announcement letter be mailed to their homes. This will be done this week. It was suggested that a postcard announcement of Committee activity also be sent to the faculty. Richard will check if Visual Arts may have a student to prepare an interesting card for this purpose.

The Committee would like to have the option of viewing the Web site at this meetings. Maggie reported that Webb 258, where the Committee has been meeting, is not Web enabled. We could use Webb 307, a computer laboratory, however the workstation configuration is not conducive for a meeting. Chuck Booth suggested that we use a lab in Goddard which has computer capability and tables conducive for meeting. He will check on availability.

3. Departmental Surveys

David and Bob will analyze the data from the Departmental survey. While the report is being written Maggie will post the answers to one question, “If resources were substantially unchanged would you decrease, increase or not change your inclusion in the GER Program? In what way?”, on our Web site.

Carol reported that almost all departments have responded to her telephone inquiry regarding the capstone and writing intensive courses. She will finalize the survey and send it to the Committee for release and analysis.

4. Committee Guests: Dr. David Carter, President

Dr. Carter visited the Committee to discuss his vision for a new general education core for Eastern. He described our challenges: to craft a unique core that created a “banner” for Eastern, a core that substantially distinguishes ECSU from the University of Connecticut and from our sister campuses. We must establish our niche. He argues that our new core should be substantially different to reflect both our different mission as well as a changing world. Specifically, he contends that global understanding and multidisciplinary experiences are central to new learning.

Dr. Carter’s proposal to re-examine the first year program may be included in our vision of the new core. The program will include some aspects of library literacy, a co-curricular component and will be available to all first year students. He is hopeful that faculty who teach in the program, although having additional responsibilities in their interactions with students, but may be able to have a three course load as compensation.

Additional features of a core curriculum, according to Dr. Carter, should include a requirement that students are able to demonstrate particular skills and that the curriculum be evaluated. Students should be able to think imaginatively and creatively, demonstrate independence, and read and conduct research. He encourages a curriculum that employs mentoring and collaboration. He argues that the curriculum must reflect a new involvement of the University in the larger community. Finally, Dr. Carter suggests that the Committee advance a curriculum that is contemporary and effective.

5. Response to Connecticut DOHE Regulations
The Committee discussed the presentation by Dr. Pachis at the last meeting. We recognize that the Committee’s position on the regulations is both congruent with, yet different from, his position. Members agreed to present a slightly modified version of the draft response to the regulations which Chuck Booth had previously presented to the Committee for discussion (Singh, Martin). Maggie will submit the comments to Dr. Pachis.

6. Model development

Richard and Delar reported on plans to analyze and recommend models for faculty consideration. A draft text for the Web site has been developed. The proposed format will be to summarize the primary models of general education programs, with an emphasis on similarly sized public universities, and to link these to the curricular descriptions on the respective university Web pages. Colleges/universities that may be linked include SUNY Geneseo and Binghamton, Umass Dartmouth and Lowell, Connecticut College, Mary Washington, Sonoma State and Truman State.

7. Task forces

Chuck Booth will plan a meeting in July with the departmental identified liaisons.

8. Summer events

The Committee brainstormed ideas for summer events for faculty regarding the new core. Further discussion will take place at later meetings.

9. Fall planning and timeline

Lunch and Learn Fall presentation
Consultants

New Business

10. Next meetings

Wednesdays during the summer: 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Margaret Martin