General Education Program Committee
Minutes
14 July 2004

Present: Chuck Booth, Hope Cook, Richard Jones-Bamman, Margaret E. Martin, David Pellegrini, Bob Wolf, Nancy Salter (ex-officio)

1. Review and acceptance of draft minutes 14 July 2004 (with correction of David Pellegrini’s name) (Wolf, Pellegrini).

Old Business

2. GEPC Web page development

**Postings to forum**
New postings have increased slightly with the addition of two new threads. Interesting feedback is being received about a proposed design for a new core. Three new threads will be posted this week. Committee members will develop language and circulate it for editing. New postings of threads will be questions: Who are our students, Theme based courses, and Consideration of the Effect of General Education Reform on Faculty.

**Faculty Survey**
Bob Wolf presented a shortened version of the faculty survey. He reduced the number of open-ended questions and suggested that we post this new survey in lieu of the current longer version. The Committee agreed by consensus to post the revised survey.

3. Departmental Survey
David Pellegrini and Bob Wolf reported on the Department chairs survey. David has compiled the information into a report and will post this to the web. Discussion about the report centered on whether the library survey should be included with Departmental surveys. Some members held that the Library does not have the same status as departments and thus should not be included, or included separately in the report. Others held that information literacy was central to general education, that librarians are considered faculty, and that for the purpose of inclusion, the library information should be integrated in the report. The committee agreed by consensus that the library information would be included in the report but in a separate section.

Bob Wolf suggested that the Committee may consider an approach that would require information literacy to be treated similarly to the writing across the curriculum requirement. He suggested for instance a requirement similar to the Writing 075 requirement, allowing majors to collaborate with the library and to determine what activities or outcomes would be required to demonstrate competency in this area. The proposal will be discussed as the Committee develops models for presentation.

It was suggested that a new thread should be posted for faculty to discuss the role of information literacy in the core. Hope will discuss this in a meeting with the library on July 21.

4. Institutional Data: Planning and Institutional Research and Admissions
See [http://www.easternct.edu/depts/pir/reports.html](http://www.easternct.edu/depts/pir/reports.html)
The Committee reviewed two PowerPoint shows related to University planning and admissions. The Admissions Office presented this and a brief report documenting the characteristics of incoming Freshman and the change in indicators over time. The Office of Planning and Institutional Research forwarded information about the U.S. News & World Report rankings, Eastern’s status within the rankings, and efforts required to maintain Tier III and to advance to Tier II.

The Committee discussed the curriculum implications of the changing nature of the student body and the effects that various planning goals may have on the general education core. In particular, the Committee reflected on the effects of lower class size, reduced student/faculty ratio, and increased proportion of students within the top 25% of high graduating class. If such goals were set and achieved the core could be more venturesome, and such a core would positively affect achievement of other University goals, including the recruitment of students and overall perception of quality.

5. Models
Tabled.

6. Fall planning and timeline
Tabled
New Business
No new business raised.

Next Meeting: July 21, 2002

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Margaret Martin, Chair