General Education Program Committee
Minutes
31 October 2005

Members Present: Chuck Booth, Hope Cook, Richard Jones-Bamman, Maggie Martin, Delar Singh, Carmen Cid
(ex-officio) Guests: Anne Dawson, Peter Bacchiochi, Jim LaMonaco, First Year Program Committee

1. Review and acceptance of draft minutes of 24 October 2005
Minutes of the 24 October 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved (Jones-Bamman, Booth) with a minor editing change.

Old Business

2. Liberal Arts Core Curriculum (LACC) Proposal
Final edits were reviewed on the LACC. Because of the campus power outage the Curriculum Committee did not meet on October 27 but will consider our proposal on November 3.

3. Colloquia development - First Year Program Committee Joint Meeting
Members of the First Year Program Committee (FYPC) recommended a new model of the First Year Program to integrate with our LACC. They suggested that all FYP clusters be taught in the fall semester and that the Liberal Arts Colloquium (LAQ) be taught in the spring semester. The GEPC considered this suggestion for implementation. Members thought that this approach could reinforce the tiered model of the new liberal arts curriculum by assuring that students will be oriented to the University, knowledgeable about disciplines and academic standards and thus engage critically and seriously in the interdisciplinary study of the LAQ. The GEPC agreed unanimously to support this FYP model.

The call for faculty to pilot the LAQ will be issued today. The call was reviewed by the committee. Examples of similar colloquia at other colleges and universities will be posted on the GEPC links page.

Students who register for the pilot LAQ will be the last class to enroll in the current GER. The LAQ should satisfy a current GER requirement. Motion to allow the pilot LAQs to satisfy the current GER IA category (Booth, Jones-Bamman). Approved unanimously.

4. ICE Working Groups – Reports

   Critical Thinking
   This group is meeting weekly and has crafted a working definition of critical thinking. The working group will hold two faculty fora in late November.

   Communications
   This working group has not yet met because of difficulty in scheduling with some faculty. If faculty schedules cannot be aligned to insure participation in this group, an alternate member was selected from previous volunteers to substitute for a member unable to attend.

   Ethics
   This working group will meet next week.

   Information Literacy
   This working group will meet next week.

New Business

   No new business was raised.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Maggie Martin, Chair