Members Present: Chuck Booth, Hope Cook, Richard Jones-Bamman, Maggie Martin, Bob Wolf, Carmen Cid (ex-officio)

1. Review and acceptance of draft minutes of 14 November 2005 with minor editing changes (Jones-Bamman, Wolf).

Old Business

2. Liberal Arts Core Curriculum Proposal
   The proposal was presented at Senate on November 15. A senator recommended that our document reflect current university policy which states that students must register for college-level math during the first 30 credits. The GEPC reviewed senate bill 2001/20002-3 which details the policy. For the purpose of clarity the GEPC will include an asterisk on our document to reflect the university policy of senate bill 2001/20002-3 (Jones-Bamman, Booth). Unanimous.

   Following the Senate meeting some faculty expressed concern about resource needs and the elimination of the section on Integrated Curricular Elements in the Curriculum Committee bill.

   Some faculty discussed the need for reassurance regarding the adequacy of classrooms and sufficient faculty to host new courses. Dr. Pachis has assured the GEPC that there would be sufficient classroom space for new colloquia in fall 2007. He has been asked to prepare materials to support this claim for the December 6 Senate meeting. Additionally he will examine faculty needs presented by the Liberal Arts Core Curriculum (LACC) proposal. Maggie presented a preliminary analysis of the first year of implementation which indicates that the impact on overall faculty resources may not be dramatic, however some departments may experience a reduction in courses and others an initial challenge to support new first year courses while continuing to serve the existing general education program. Better utilization of available courses may also reduce the affect. Current general education categories show a broad range, from 61% - 94%, in the ratio of students enrolled to maximum class size. Data from the Office of Institutional Planning and Research indicates that the average first year student enrolls in 28 credits in classes of an average of 30 students. In the ensuing discussion, members of the GEPC supported the development of block scheduling for first year students.

   Another concern expressed was that the “Integrated Curriculum Elements” section of the LACC was not included in the Curriculum Committee (CC) bill. This section was not included in the GEPC submission to the CC as it is not catalog content. Fear was expressed that the requirement to infuse these elements would be “lost” if not included in the Senate bill. Various alternatives to insure the mandate were discussed. Committee members urged that a Senate resolution stating that these elements are key outcomes of the curriculum and will be incorporated into the implementation should accompany the CC bill. The Senate President will be contacted about this.

3. Colloquia development - First Year Program Committee
   The GEPC agreed to host another faculty forum to discuss the development of the Liberal Arts Colloquia proposals. December 8 was suggested. Anne Dawson will be contacted and room availability checked.

4. ICE Working Groups – Reports
   a. Information Literacy
      The working group will meet on November 28.
   b. Critical Thinking – Report
      The first report of the working group was received and distributed to the faculty. Members of the GEPC were enthusiastic about its content and suggested that this may serve as a model for other working groups. Two faculty for a have been scheduled to discuss the report. They are November 29 at 2:00 p.m. and November 30 at 11:00 a.m.
c. Communications
   The working group is developing a common definition of the concept and discussing how the objectives can be addressed throughout the LACC tiered structure.

d. Ethics
   The working group will meet again during the week of November 28.

5. Committee Name
   Members discussed the various titles proposed and reached consensus that Liberal Arts Program Committee is the preferred title of the group. The motion to recommend a change in title (Jones-Bamman, Wolf) was tabled to be discussed following the Senate vote.

6. Implementation plans
   No other implementation plans were discussed.

New Business
7. Sabbatical Replacement
   Marty Levin, Senate President, indicated that the Organization Committee will contact the prior nominees for the position of Humanities representative to the GEPC to request their interest in being the one semester replacement. If there is no interest, then nominations will be taken from the Senate floor.

8. Meeting Times Spring 2006
   Bob Wolf indicated that the Curriculum Committee is considering meeting on Monday afternoons in spring 2006. This meeting would conflict with our current schedule. Members present indicated that Thursday afternoons may be possible. Members will be polled to check availability.

9. Other
   No other new business was raised.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Maggie Martin, Chair