General Education Program Committee
Minutes
6 February 2006

Members Present: Chuck Booth, Hope Cook, Maggie Martin, David Pellegrini, Carol Williams, Bob Wolf, Carmen Cid (ex-officio)

1. Review and acceptance of the minutes of (Booth, Wolf).

Old Business

2. ICE Working Groups
   a. Communications
      Met on Tuesday will meet every two weeks. Group members will research and identify relevant learning activities for Tier I communications objectives. These will be visual, oral and written assignments and activities that will show models of effective communication. From these the committee will derive principles for practice.

   b. Information Literacy
      The working group will meet on February 13. It now may be possible to pilot the ETS assessment instrument as to provide baseline data.

   c. Critical Thinking
      The working group is scheduling its first meeting for the semester.

   d. Ethics
      An on-line survey has been circulated for faculty. The working group will use the data to assess the current nature and extent of ethics in our curricula.

3. Implementation plans
   a. Faculty survey
      A draft of the GEPC faculty survey was reviewed. Committee members clarified the language and set deadlines for submission. The Tier I section should be received by March 15 and Tier II and Tier III by April 7. Hard copies of the survey will be given to the Deans for distribution to department chairs. Electronic versions of the surveys will be sent to faculty.

4. Senate By-Laws Amendment
   The draft bylaws amendment was reviewed and accepted by Marty Levin. The GEPC will introduce the amendment to the Senate tomorrow. Preference was expressed for the immediate implementation of the changes, except to wait until the next Senate elections to add the library faculty seat.

5. New Procedures
   a. Course Levels
      The committee discussed the relationship between course numbers and tiers. Previously, the GEPC held that most Tier I courses would be 100 or 200 level courses, Tier II and Tier III, 300 level or higher. A number of concerns were voiced about prohibiting 200 level courses in Tier II. Some faculty thought that students would unnecessarily wait until junior year to take 300 level science courses. Concern was also raised that some courses usually transferred may be at the 200 level. Discussion ensued about typical class sizes related to course levels. Factors included course content, type of learning (active vs. passive strategies), safety, room sizes and equipment considerations.

   b. New Course Proposals
      Faculty have indicated interest in proposing courses for the current GER and the Liberal Arts Curriculum (LAC). The GEPC agreed not to accept new courses in the current GER. All new course submissions will be for the LAC. With faculty request, new courses may be approved for the LAC and allowed to fulfill specific GER categories. Forms for submission will be prepared soon.
New Business

6. Announcements
   a. First Year Program Committee has approved eight pilot Liberal Arts Colloquia.
   b. Maggie is scheduling a meeting with Susan Heyward to discuss implementation procedures.

7. Web page update
   The Web pages have been updated to include the new curriculum, ICE working group content and links. The University Academics Page now has a link to the General Education Program.

8. Tier II Development
   David Pellegrini raised issues related to implementation of Tier I and Tier II courses. Many arts courses may be difficult to include in Tier I. Opportunities for great creativity exist in Tier II but this area needs careful development and inspiration to insure that courses truly meet the expectations established. David has agreed to lead the development project and will be suggesting faculty forums, speakers, and the like, to move to this phase of the curriculum.

No other new business was raised.

Next meeting 13 February 2006

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Maggie Martin, Chair