General Education Program Committee
Minutes
15 September 2004

Present: Richard Jones-Bamman, Chuck Booth, Hope Cook, Maggie Martin, Delar Singh, Nancy Salter, ex-officio.

1. Review and acceptance of draft minutes 8 September 2004 (Booth, Jones-Bamman).

Old Business

2. Feedback from Departments and Faculty
   
   E-forum and survey
   There has been some discussion on the electronic forum. Committee members were asked if they were aware of schools with liberal arts majors to answer a question on the forum. Members will investigate this.

   Other contact
   Members of some departments have contacted the Committee members to discuss their department’s needs regarding the general education program. Each of the suggestions or concerns have been addressed by the Committee. Some departments are uncertain about the effect of a capstone class on their majors, if a sequential model is adopted. Other departments want to insure that courses from within their majors are required in a new general education program. The Committee discussed its approach to designing a core, agreeing that it will focus on the mandates and approved principles in order to shape specific goals, objectives and outcomes. We will focus on student learning not on privileging certain disciplines or courses.

3. Student Engagement
   Denise Matthews is willing to work with the Committee to develop a student engagement process. She proposes a t.v. forum with students and Committee members in discussing general education in the studio and allowing live call-in and e-mail discussion. Maggie will discuss strategies with her regarding timing and selection of a random group of students for the studio. The Committee will focus on the role of general education at Eastern, encouraging students to be aware that faculty are considering and evaluating this learning constantly. We want to emphasize the importance of general education to the students’ overall educational program. We may ask students about their response to the Core Abilities of a Liberally Educated Person. Other questions may be: what has helped you think critically in your education at Eastern? How could your education be improved? What do you see as central to the Eastern educational experience?

4. Forums
   It has been very difficult to schedule rooms for the faculty forum. Webb 110 is available for September 29. The Committee suggested that both forums (pre-tenured and tenured) be held simultaneously in Webb 110 and Webb 113. Refreshments will served in Webb 115.

5. Pre-tenured faculty meeting
   In that Hope has a previously scheduled event in the library, the pre-tenured forum will be hosted by Delar and David.

6. Vote on Models
   The faculty vote will likely occur sometime around October 1. The text of the ballot must be developed to assure clarity. Maggie will draft language for Committee review.

7. General education goals
   The Committee discussed some of the outcomes mandated by the University and external sources. The Committee will develop goals and objectives from which the curriculum, and extra-curricula
activities, will flow. Maggie raised the question of whether gaps or omissions existed in the mandates and suggested that outcomes should include collaboration. Members discussed how or if this was relevant in their disciplines. In addition, the Committee discussed the various ways that a study of cultures was mandated. Mandates require knowledge of culture (Principles of a Liberally Educated Person), the skills of interacting cross-culturally (Principles) and the value of appreciating other cultures (DOHE).

8. Academic Affairs representative
The Committee is just being organized. David has contacted the chair regarding the GEPC appointment.

New Business

No new business was raised.

Next Meeting: The next GEPC meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 9:30 am in Webb 258.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Martin, Chair