SUMMARY SHEET

General Education Council of the Faculty Senate
September 2009

1.Name of GE Model: Alternative GE Model

2. Goals/Statement of Purpose:

The Alternative General Education curriculum is a user-friendly model that emphasizes foundational knowledge in the liberal arts, science and math for all students. This model increases student choice without compromising intellectual integrity. It emphasizes civic engagement, diversity education and global awareness, while increasing student choice within all content areas. This model offer significant innovations to the university's current GE Program by creating thematic upper level GE requirements that combine institutional strengths with the University Mission Statement and Middle States and AACU recommendations. The Alternative GE model strongly affirms William Paterson University as an institution dedicated to academic excellence and student success for the 21st century.

3. Key Features

a) **Dramatic Reduction of GE credits:** Students will take 31-46 credits (including Language) with greater freedom of course options and sequencing.

b) **User-friendly:** Simple and straightforward model for students, advisors and administrative staff.

c) **Builds upon Institutional Strengths:** GE themes build upon current institutional strengths in the context of Middle States and AACU/LEAP recommendations

d) **Integrated Across 4 years:** GE will be integrated and developed across all four years of undergraduate education with coherent sequencing of foundations with upper level GE requirements.

e) **Double Accounting:** Flexible and coherent options for double or even triple counting (100-400 level) with opportunities for integration within academic major.

f) **Assessable SLO Approach:** A "student learning outcomes" approach which structures increased student exposure to technology, writing and information literacy/research skills without adding to the number of overall GE credits.

4. Brief Description/Outline the strengths of this proposal.

- This GE model is defined by its commitment to foundational knowledge and skills with an emphasis on equipping graduates with the particular literacies needed for success in an increasingly diverse, unequal and interdependent global age.

- The Alternative GE model highlights civic engagement, global awareness, and diversity education. Wherever possible the foundational GE courses will incorporate these broad themes. The three upper level GE area courses will then build on this foundation, giving students a culminating GE experience in which they explore issues related to community and civic life, race, class and gender, and a culturally complex and interdependent world, in greater depth.

- Additionally this GE Model is committed to the idea that critical skills and knowledge need not be sacrificed as a result of reducing GE credits. By integrating SLO related to key skills (critical thinking, oral communication) students are insured exposure. Likewise for certain skills , (technology and writing) a set number of courses can be required (in GE or in major) which satisfy a particular SLO intensively. These requirements can follow the "across the curriculum" model without increasing the overall number of GE course requirements.

5. **Range of Credits**

GE Program: 31-46 credits

Foreign Language Proficiency: 0 to 6

6. Program Outcomes:

1) Communicate effectively through speaking and writing skills.

2) Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data.

3) Demonstrate critical and analytical skills in addressing social, philosophical and historical issues.

4) Demonstrate understanding of scientific principles and methods.

5) Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information.

6) Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical perspectives.

7) Engage in activities that fulfill personal, civic, and social responsibilities.

8) Use computer and emerging digital technologies effectively.

9) Demonstrate an appreciation for aesthetics and creative activity.