Minutes of General Education Committee
July 2, 2009

Meeting called to order at 2:10 pm

Attending: Lorra Brown, Peter Griswold, Esther Martinez, Rey Martinez, Sandra
DeYoung, Jean Levitan, Kathy Malanga, Tom Gundling, Christine Kelly, Alejandro
Anreus, John Peterman, Nancy Weiner, Lynne Orr, Ron Verdicchio, Guiliana
Andreopolous
**(This is a guess – I do not have the attendance list)

1.Agenda approved with one change to switch the order of the reports by the two model
subcommittees.

2.Approval of Minutes from 6-23-09 with the following changes.
Miryam Wahrman's name was misspelled.
On page 2 Verdicchio did not disagree but sought to clarify the matter.

Discussion of whether to include names of discussants in minutes.
Levitan moved to omit names of discussants except where deemed necessary.
Second by Kelly and passed unanimously.

3. Subcommittee reports
a) Alternative model
Narrative is becoming more refined and detailed.
First Focus Group will meet July 9 at 11 a.m. in R 403
Plan for a second Focus Group in early August
This is not meant to be an event for the entire GE Committee as space is limited.

b) USP model
Continuing to work on learning outcomes for each course topic area
Will send these to whole Committee when complete.

c) Recurring Issues
1- Technological literacy
identified several moments of concern or opportunity in the undergrad career:
Orientation
First Year Seminar
All GE courses where appropriate

Suggested SLO's related to technology should be on the GE Course Approval Form
Majors should have statement of its own Tech concerns
Standards for Tech SLO's is discussed by Middle States
    See Middle States "Characteristics of Excellence in Higher Education:
                Eligibility Requirements and Standards for Accreditation" – 2006

The Alternate Model discussed possibility of a Tech proficiency test at its last meeting.
There followed an extended discussion of how this could be implemented.
When would such a test be given: orientation or Sept or when?
How would a deficiency be rectified: would students take a separate course, or have an emphasis within a course or attend workshops like in some schools?
Other schools do have proficiency tests and we can find out their experiences.

General discussion about what we mean by Tech Literacy
Is this a GE policy issue – or an effort to inform the development of the GE Models?
Literacy seems to imply the minimum needed to survive
Should we be asking for more – such as "competency"?
Another approach would be a developmental model withy defined stages of competency

2-Global awareness
In the draft document change #2c to "culture/region"
In #4 the decision not to have any other prerequisites recognizes the students' developmental gains of the first 2 years. All students will have completed a certain number of relevant courses by this time.

3-Impact of any new GE program on small departments
Small depts. have a responsibility to promote themselves
This discussion will be continued.

The discussion of the diversity course with the Racism and Sexism Committee will continue.

4.Discussion of SLO's postponed to next meeting.

5. Calendars:
In order to prepare for Fall 2011 scheduling, courses must be approved by end of Spring 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John Peterman, Secretary pro tem (one meeting)