

GE Committee Minutes

April 3, 2008

Present: Andreopoulos, Beal, Deloatch, Gonzalez, Griswold, He, Levitan, Rabbitt, Sheffield, Silgailis, Peterman, Tesfaye, Verdicchio, Weiner. **Guest:** Steve Hahn, Sandie Miller

Peterman, introduced the Agenda which was (a) review of the Timetable for GE Envisioning, Preparations for GE Forum of April 24, 2008, (b) subsequent GE Meeting to be held on May 15th regarding guidelines for submitting proposals and (c) status of Discussion Groups as a vehicle of disseminating information for the Forum.

Peterman, noted that our institution had so far conducted three (3) forums and that per the time table the next forum on April 24, 2008 will deal with a detailed component of envisioning GE. He indicated the need to look at other institutions who offer similar components as our campus, e.g. freshman year, depth and breadth requirements and sophomore/junior year experiences. He noted that the goal of the GE committee being the hope that at end of the first year of GE faculty is able to present some proposal particularly about the components. This might involve initially the fresh man experience and then how to carry some of those through the student's college experience which the Forum may look at look at on April 24, 2008.

Peterman, indicated some initial proposal may be entertained on May 15th extended GE meeting which is open to all presentation of proposals. Then during the summer, the GE Committee or a working group (that is available) could help prepare for the fall.

He also shared that some members of the GE committee had submitted a proposal to a national planning retreat to begin in June, which was accepted but got turned down but that another occasion may avail itself during this summer. He noted that a good possibility also exists for of doing an in-House retreat which could include senate members or people from Provost's office but that the GE committee should be thinking about the structure and what sort of planning needs to be set up before next fall and to think about it now (speakers forums etc.) so it can proceed in orderly as possible.

Peterman, al so noted that Faculty will have until next September to submit proposals which will be discussed in the fall and that process of will be discussed and than by the end of the fall 09 term GE Committee will decide how it all fits together providing a rough idea how GE of the future is going to look like. He also explained that beginning in spring 09 the committee could submit it to Faculty Senate and then on March 2009 have senate approve it and then end of spring term send it to provost and the board for approval.

Peterman, finally pointed out in planning the Forum of April 24th the committee should answer two important questions. Should there be a breakout groups for discussion or stay in the whole for entire session? That is, which of the above modes provide the best way of getting the information most effectively incorporated by the audience?

Rabbitt, queried whether the Power Point presentations from last forum of discussion were disseminated. **Peterman** indicated he just got them and will send it to GE committee members.

Andreopoulos, raised the issue of vision and component of the GE program under review. She pointed out that the structure of GE and the different component are driven by the vision. And components such as critical and analytical thinking are driven by goals, objectives. She suggested the committee indicate for discussion April 24th the “Vision and component”, and other wise people might claim turfs.

Peterman, observed that while vision is very important that the committee might want to focus in its various components in order to stretch peoples ideas what a vision is and even though at WPU there is some sense of what a “vision.” He added that WPU may want to look at some of this “visions” and sort of cannibalize what is unique to expand the vision which inevitably has to be addressed either on May 15, or fall 08. He added that when GE Committee members visit WPU Depts, and ask pointedly “what you hope to accomplish with GE?” this are questions that deal with a process of formulating the vision.

Griswold noted that GE committee has been gathering lots of information so far and maybe its time to put together a vision, not one carved in stone, but an outline that can be revisited again and again.

Andreopoulos, agreed and indicated that a vision can also be flexible, something to add too in the future.

Peterman, observed that GE Committee has a vision statement in place already which is being used as kind of temporary template. That a discussion of a vision could involve a whole forum by itself, and It would occupy lots of time and space and that an orderly process is needed to deal with it. He added, timing is key as well as the possibilities of how GE is conducted and what the components are and thus educating faculty what GE is higher priority

Rabbitt, noted that constructing a vision now will be black boxing the process. One way to do it may be a series of points that distills the conversation thus far this year and puts the topic of vision on the table as we move on. She added if GE Committee is considering proposals and elements to be presented in the fall they need to be in a framework. She finally noted, envisioning GE is a process which looks at different models with the objective of articulating a vision for WPU.

Peterman, brought up issues on guidelines to submit a proposal. Should it be done via listerve, ideas, and suggestions?

Weiner noted that GE Committee has enough materials to be put together a proposal or vision, and

Peterman, suggested that the Research Sub-Committee may want to give direction and consideration to this effort when the GE committee meets on April 14, 2008, at 11: Am.

Peterman, outlined April 24 forum and discussed (a) ways and means of combining Assessment (Learning Literacies) with vision statement and how to make the connections between the two, (b) examine WPU's approaches to GE and then focusing on some models, the best being that of Portland State university, Wagner college and the University of the Pacific.

Rabbitt, noted that that College of New Jersey allows students choose tracks which gives students dimension of choice and contributes to sequential integration and that our current situation of packaging doesn't give choice.

Verdicchio, asked how many people do we anticipate in the April 24, 2008 Forum, what is it that the GE committee wants? To happen at the forum?

Peter man, asked GE committee whether on April 24, 2008 Forum participants should break out or stay whole to discuss issues.

Levitan, suggested importance of groups look at some key models and which will be sent to the Discussion Groups to solicit input for the April 24 Forum

Andreopoulos, noted that the last Forum was rushed and that GE committee should entertain at the minimum 2 or 3 questions for an in-depth discussion.

Rabbitt, suggested instead of breaking out in groups should stay in the big room which will provide ample time for interaction and discussion

Griswold, gave a report on the work of the Discussion Group, and how it was planning to ask the provost to send out email to encourage the campus community to respond to list serve questions, and contribute to discussions. He circulated a memo to be sent to provost which was revised by GE committee. Griswold suggested to all the importance of keeping the Discussion Group in Listserve, invigorated.

Levitan, shared with GE committee the results of her visit the English Department which is being less willing to participate in the Discussion Group wanting to see first what needs to be presented

Peterman, noted on some interesting work by WPU computer Science department regarding technology literacy and how skills are stressed on a continuous basis during a students college experience.

Miller, explained that such assessment in computer literacy was good if students continue to upgrade their skills and if there is no reinforcement then there are problems.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50Pm

Respectfully submitted

Aaron Tesfaye, GE Committee member

