

GE Council Minutes
May 20, 2009

Council Members Present: Alejandro Anreus, Sandra DeYoung, Christine Kelly, Jean Levitan, Kathy Malanga, Rey Martinez, Rob McCallum, Balmurli Natrajan, Lynne Orr, Frank Pavese, John Peterman, Kara Rabbitt, Bob Rimmer, George Robb, Viji Sargis, Kathy Silgailis, Ron Verdicchio, Nancy Weiner

Senate Executive Committee Representative: Esther Martinez

1. Meeting called to order by Jean Levitan at 12:35pm.
2. Minutes from the May 14, 2009 meeting were approved. It was also decided that the task of recording the minutes will rotate alphabetically among Council members.
3. Calendar and Meeting Schedule
 - a. Co-chairs Levitan and Malanga reviewed the dates and times for upcoming meetings. The proposed schedule was based upon input from last week's meeting and a review of submitted schedules. The full Council will meet every other week as follows:
 1. Thursday May 28 from 1:30pm-3:30pm
 2. Wednesday June 10 (retreat) 12:30pm-4:30pm
 3. Thursday June 25 from 1:30pm-3:30pm
 - b. Subcommittees will meet on the alternate weeks; determining the best day/time during the weeks of June 1 and June 15.
 - c. Meeting dates for July and August have not yet been established.
4. Organization and Establishment of Subcommittees
 - a. General Items
 1. Recommendation to work primarily as a "committee of the whole" to foster discussion. Loosely following *Robert's Rules of Order*, formal procedures will be used for motions and voting.
 2. Shared documents should be in Word 2003 or PDF format.
 - b. Possible Subcommittees
 1. Initial discussion last week focused on establishing four subcommittees that would work on the following: the existing USP Model, development of an Alternative Model(s), Outcomes and Learning Objectives, and Assessment. The question was also raised about including a 3 credit FYI in the proposed models since we are now operating under a 120 minimum graduation requirement.
 2. Discussion ensued as there were questions raised to having four subcommittees. Many felt that each of the models may need to develop separate outcomes/learning objectives and assessment plans and would prefer two subcommittees that would focus on the USP Model and Alternative Model(s), respectively. It was also noted that writing learning outcomes and assessment plans apart from the models may not be the best approach.

3. The suggestion was made that perhaps a neutral third party could look at outcomes/learning objectives and assessment at the retreat.
 4. Discussion continued on modifying the USP Model and the creation of alternate models for Senate consideration. As the discussion continued, it was noted that we may not wish to developing too many competing models since the Council will still need to build consensus among all faculty for approval. The possibility of the Council presenting one model was raised, but a review of the Senate Charges clearly articulates the expectation that at least two different models be presented to the Senate. This would not, however, preclude the models from becoming one at some point in time.
 5. Any proposed model should incorporate the principles of being smaller, connected to the major, and one that offers some choice and flexibility to students.
 6. Frank Pavese motioned to form two subcommittees, one to work on revising the USP Model and one to work on developing Alternative Models. Alejandro Anreus seconded. Discussion followed. As the charges to the Council relate only to the Senate and not to the faculty as a whole, the suggestion was made to present the models to the wider campus community in early September. Representation on the two subcommittees was briefly discussed with agreement that at least one individual from HSS should be on each subcommittee. The motion carried with 13 votes in favor, two abstentions and one opposing vote.
 7. Individuals will have the opportunity to sign up for a sub-committee toward the end of the meeting.
- c. Difficult and Recurring Issues
 1. A third subcommittee was proposed and this subcommittee will develop statements for Council discussion and talking points. The Co-Chairs of the Council will serve on this subcommittee, along with one or two other Council members.
 2. Kathy Malanga motioned to form a subcommittee to develop Council discussion points; Nancy Weiner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - d. Communication
 1. The Co-Chairs of the Council, Jean Levitan and Kathy Malanga, would be responsible for insuring that all parties, individuals and groups are kept informed of GE Council activities and progress.
 - e. Other
 1. Other issues to consider include the two-year college articulation agreement.
5. Retreat
 - a. Two committees will be working on models with the expectation that information will be shared with others at the retreat.
 6. Review and Approval of Prior GE Council Documents

- a. Members received the Working Principles Document and the Statement of Purpose for review. All documents are available on the GE Council web page <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate/gedocs.htm>
7. Old Business
- a. Approval of minutes by members of last year's GE Council will be sought. Once approved, the minutes will be posted to the Senate web page.
8. New Business
- a. Council members were asked to specify a preference for a subcommittee. Each subcommittee was asked to appoint a convener and review documents. The composition of the subcommittees thus far is as follows:
 - 1. USP Model-Kathy Silgailis, Lynne Orr, Bob Rimmer, Nancy Weiner, Peter Griswold and John Peterman.
 - 2. Alternative Model(s)-Frank Pavese, Rob McCallum, Murli Natrajan, Alejandro Anreaus, Rey Martinez, Christine Kelly and George Robb.
 - 3. Recurring Issues-Jean Levitan, Kathy Malanga and Ron Verdicchio
 - 4. Each subcommittee should appoint a convener.
 - b. A memo to the campus community will be sent and include the Council roster, recent activities and upcoming meetings.
 - c. Mark Ellis will be invited to discuss the First Year Inquiry model at the next meeting.
 - d. The next meeting of the full GE Council is scheduled for Thursday, May 28th from 1:30pm-3:30pm, location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Weiner