

**GE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**May 28, 2009**

**GE Council Members Present:** Giuliana Andreopoulos, Alejandro Anreus, Lorra Brown, Sandra DeYoung, Christine Kelly, Jean Levitan, Kathy Malanga, Rey Martinez, Rob McCallum, Lynne Orr, Frank Pavese, John Peterman, Bob Rimmer, George Robb, Viji Sargis, Kathy Silgailis, Ron Verdicchio, Nancy Weiner.

**Senate Executive Committee Representative:** Sue Godar

Meeting called to order by Kathy Malanga at 12.35 p.m.

May 28 2009 meeting's agenda was approved.

Minutes from the May 20, 2009 meeting were approved

**1. Review of documents**

Jean Levitan gave the GE members a document showing majors and their credits, co-requisites and current directed GE classes. This document would allow all the subcommittee members to be aware of the varying credits concerns among departments and colleges.

**2. Reports from subcommittees**

***USP Subcommittee***

(Report by Nancy Weiner)

In the first part of the USP Subcommittee meeting there was a discussion on the history of the USP proposal for the benefit of the new GE members. The second part of the discussion focused on the main concerns about the USP proposal that were raised at various forums, meetings and Senate meetings during the past years and in particular on:

The first year seminar (structure and implementation)

“Core” courses

Foreign language requirements.

The strengths of the USP were also discussed and in particular the emphasis on the First Year, the connection between the general education courses and the courses in the major, and greater choices and flexibility offered to WPU students.

The two models submitted by Dean Tirado and Kathy Malanga were also discussed.

Lynn Orr also drafted a different visual that was distributed at the May 28 GE meeting.

Finally, the USP Subcommittee discussed the main issues related to the learning outcomes and the implementation of the USP model.

The next USP subcommittee meeting will be on Tuesday, June 2nd.

***Alternative GE Model Sub-committee***

(Report by Christine Kelly)

The Alternative Model sub-committee's discussion started with the review of Senate Charge and the Committee agreed on the need to provide at least one alternative to the USP model.

The committee also looked at the following documents:

The AACU recommendations for the GE reform

The past GE Council Guidelines, in particular the working principles documents from Sept 2008 Alternative GE models presented, in particular those suggested by Dean Tirado and McCallum. The subcommittee also discussed at length the following two issues:

The need for expanding foundational knowledge and core programs relative to the USP model

The need to reduce the number of credits relative to the existing GE program.

Finally, the subcommittee discussed the necessity of drafting the learning outcomes for the alternative model.

The next Alternative Model GE sub-committee meeting will be on Tuesday, June 2nd.

### ***Recurring Issues sub-committee***

(Report by Roland Verdicchio)

This sub-committee discussed the most controversial issues concerning the new GE and in particular tried to answer the following questions:

Should the Foreign language requirement be a GE or University requirement?

How should Technological literacy/competency be included in the new GE model?

What are the major issues concerning articulation agreements and transfer students?

What is the impact of a new GE model on smaller departments?

How does GE impact those students with 60 and + credit major?

How does any proposal address the Racism and sexism requirement?

How does any proposal address the problem of prerequisites?

Are there any graduation requirements that need to be considered?

Should the FY seminar be part of GE? If so, should it be a 1-2 or 3 credit option?

What does it mean to have a core?

How will the new GE be implemented?

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

A discussion on the GE courses and their relation to majors followed.

### **3. Review of Senate Charges**

Sue Godar, Faculty Senate Chair, was invited to clarify some of the charges for the GE committee set by the Senate Executive Committee regarding the four following issues: the GE model versus models, building consensus on campus for a vote, foreign language requirements and policy on substitutes serving on the GE Council.

Godar stated that the Senate Executive Committee would like to see at least one alternative model to the USP proposal. She also stressed the importance of balancing different needs of different colleges and constituencies. Concerning foreign languages, Godar reiterated the existence of two possibilities : Foreign languages will be part of the GE and consequently will be regulated by the New Transfer Agreement or will be part of graduation requirements . Godar also recalled that the Undergraduate Council and the Faculty Senate will have to decide whether to make foreign language a graduation requirement. Turning to the issue on

committee substitutes, Godar said that there is nothing in the Senate Bylaws. The GE Council may allow substitutes to participate in discussions if it chooses; however, it will not be an official substitution which means no substitute votes.

#### **4. First Year Seminar**

Finally Mark Ellis spoke about the first year seminar and pilot proposal. He summarized the main issues related to the number of credits (1.5 or 3), the implementation and the required resources.

A discussion on the foreign language requirement and first year seminar followed.

Meeting adjourned at 3.30 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Giuliana Campanelli Andreopoulos