

GE Committee Meeting Minutes

October 30, 2007

Present: Giuliana Andreopoulos , Jonnine Deloatch, Mark Ellis , Jack Feldman, Evelyn Gonzalez, Peter Griswold, Jean Levitan, Kathy Malanga, John Peterman, Kara Rabbitt , Deborah Sheffield, Kathy Silgalis, Miryam Wahrman, Mahmoud Watad, Nancy Weiner , Burt Weltman, Hilary Wilder
Guests: Sue Godar, Steve Hahn

Meeting was convened at 12:40

- I. **Approval of Minutes:** minutes from October 25 meeting were approved
- II. **Review Subcommittee Assignments:** Subcommittee assignments have been made and conveners for each subcommittee have been chosen. J. Levitan will send out final member lists. The next full committee meeting will be November 15, 2007 during the common hour, however subcommittees were encouraged to meet before then. Subcommittee meeting times do not need to stick to common hour but can be more flexible. Some actions items for subcommittees include:
 - Forum subcommittee needs to meet ASAP to plan for the upcoming Nov. 29 forum. It also needs to reserve space for the Spring forums.
 - Research subcommittee should look for relevant conferences that committee members or others would benefit from.
 - Discussion Groups subcommittee should think about whether groups should be within or across college/department lines.All subcommittees will report back to the full committee – subcommittees need to inform each other.
- III. **American Democracy Project Event:** The American Democracy Project will be hosting Dr. Richard Guarasci, President of Wagner College to talk about General Education and Civic Engagement. This would be a good follow-up to our Nov. 29 forum and would keep GE in peoples' minds. It was suggested that a "save the date" email go out as soon as ADP sets a date to tie this talk together with our efforts and keep the momentum going.
- IV. **Letter to WPU Community:** Further edits were suggested for the letter to the WPU community which introduces the GE initiative. J. Peterman will send out a revised version – any further suggestions/feedback need to be sent to him ASAP so this letter can go out soon. It was noted that because this letter becomes a sort of policy statement to get people to understand what is going to happen and why, so it needs to be sufficiently informative. Subsequent memos to the community can be briefer. The names of all GE Committee members will be on this letter.
After some discussion, it was decided that while we wanted to keep students in the loop that this letter would not be appropriate for them, as any changes to GE would not affect current students. A different letter to students soliciting their input would make more sense and/or involving the SGA Executive Board.
- V. **Upcoming Forum:** This first forum will introduce the issues and prepare WPU community for the three Spring forums and the face-to-face/online discussion groups. The theme/topic and title for this forum was again discussed. Suggestions included:
 - Focus on the future – not letting this forum become a place to vent about current program or revisit territorial issues
 - Ask broad questions like: "What is the ideal GE program?"; "What would be best for our students?"; "What do we want WPU students to graduate with?"
 - First defining the scope of a GE program and then talk about defining an ideal program
 - First asking "What should the goal for GE be?" and letting the answer to this determine the rest of the questions

- We need to make sure that this attracts/draws as many people as possible – make it relevant for them
- We need to get input from students, as they are our ‘customers’ (to use a business model)
- We should not bring students in to this too early; similarly we should not introduce any possible models or findings from the Research subcommittee too early – this should happen later in the Spring
- Many faculty may already have ideas about what GE should be and will bring that to the forum
- Start discussion by looking at the Vision statement of the current GE program
- Open up discussion of whether GE should be a core curriculum or a broad exposure?

Send further suggestions for title and/or topic via email for continued discussion.

Dates for the Spring Forums are:

- Feb. 15, 2008: Friday, 9:30-12:30
- Mar. 13, 2008: Thursday, 12:30-2:00
- Apr. 17, 2008: Thursday, 12:30-2:00

It is anticipated that topics for the Spring Forums and Community Discussion Groups will fall out of the Nov. 29 forum. Spring forum will also include information from Research subcommittee on what other programs are like, etc.

VI. **Concerns from the Audience:** No concerns were voiced.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Hilary Wilder