

General Education Committee Meeting
September 27, 2007

Present: Giuliana Andreopoulos, Jonnine DeLoatch, Mark Ellis, Jack Feldman, Evelyn Gonzalez, Peter Griswold, Jean Levitan, Rob McCallum, John Peterman, Kara Rabbit, Deborah Sheffield, Peg Schultz, Kathy Silgalis, Aaron Tesfaye, Mahmoud Watad, Nancy Weiner, Hilary Wilder, He Zhang

Guests: Terry Finnegan and Sue Godar

1. Meeting called to order by Peter Griswold at 12:40pm.
2. Agenda adopted without revision.
3. Introduction of committee members and distribution of GE Curriculum Handbook.
4. Sue Godar, Chair of the Faculty Senate, thanked everyone for volunteering to serve on this important committee and discussed some of the critical issues facing the committee during the current academic year.
 - a. Sue first mentioned the GE Honors proposal that went before the Senate in the spring and what was learned from this process. While it initially passed, there was not a consensus in favor of the proposal in the Senate or among members of the University community. Since one of the GE Committee's responsibilities is to review and make recommendations regarding changes in the existing GE Curriculum, Sue stressed the importance of garnering support and buy-in from faculty and members of the campus community at the start of this process. Sue also mentioned that the administration is in full support of the GE Committee and have asked Jean Levitan and John Peterman to help guide the Committee during this process. Charged with ensuring completion of tasks in a timely manner. both have been granted 3 credit hours of release time.
 - b. Sue also discussed the recently adopted Comprehensive New Statewide Transfer Agreement (P.L. 2007, c.175) that will impact students entering the University in fall 2008. This agreement may also impact existing GE requirements, particularly the current foreign language requirement, and will certainly factor in to Committee discussions during the next few months. Sue also distributed a list of web addresses to other state institutions and suggested members review existing GE programs and requirements.
5. Terry Finnegan, Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate reiterated the importance of keeping the University community informed of all GE Committee activities. Minutes of GE Committee meetings, after Committee approval, will be made

available to the campus via access on the K drive. Terry also requested that GE Committee updates be provided on a regular basis at Faculty Senate meetings. In addition, the Committee should be actively soliciting input regarding the GE curriculum from departments and colleges. Use of the campus calendar system to let the campus know about discussion forums and other events was another suggestion provided by Terry, who also mentioned that the administration would support any member who wishes to attend any GE related conferences since the administration. Before departing, both Sue and Terry responded to questions from members pertaining to learning objectives specific to GE and the history of GE reform at WPUNJ.

6. Election of Chair was the next order of business. Prior to nominations, a suggestion was made to consider the feasibility of having co-chairs for the committee. Much debate and discussion ensued during this time and the duties and expectations of the committee chair were outlined. After a somewhat lengthy election process, Jean Levitan and John Peterman were elected as Co-Chairs of the committee.
7. Jean and John reviewed the charges of the committee and solicited input from members regarding potential meeting times and locations. With a large committee membership, a suggestion was made to institute working committees with the authority to act on issues and report back to the whole. This suggestion will be considered, but most agreed to schedule a full committee meeting as soon as possible.
8. Rob McCallum offered to compile a spreadsheet comparing GE programs requirements at other institutions for discussion at the next meeting.
9. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 11 at 8:00am.
10. Meeting adjourned at 12:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Weiner