

GE Council Minutes  
May 14, 2009

Council Members Present: Giuliana Andreopoulos, Alejandro Anreus, Lorra Brown, Sandra DeYoung, Peter Griswold, Christine Kelly, Jean Levitan, Kathy Malanga, Rey Martinez, Rob McCallum, Balmurli Natrajan, Lynne Orr, Frank Pavese, John Peterman, Kara Rabbit, Bob Rimmer, George Robb, Viji Sargis, Kathy Silgailis, Ron Verdicchio, Mahmoud Watad, Nancy Weiner

Guests: Sue Godar, Steve Hahn, Esther Martinez

1. Convener Ron Verdicchio called the meeting called to order at 12:35pm. Introduction of council members followed.
2. Sue Godar, Faculty Senate Chair, welcomed those in attendance, especially members embarking on their initial term on the Council. Godar then reviewed the Standing Charges and Additional Charges for the GE Council for 2009-2010 academic year. Reminding all that a new and smaller GE Program was expected to be in place by fall 2011, Godar outlined the incremental approval process for a revised GE Program, reviewed the deadlines and discussed the following:
  - a. The Existing GE/USP proposal, incorporating revisions, along with at least one additional GE model, will be presented to the Faculty Senate at the September 22, 2009 Senate meeting. Godar explained that it is the opinion of the Senate Executive Committee to offer another model as an alternative to the "grid" proposal. Godar also noted that at the first Faculty Senate meeting on September 8, 2009, the Senate would determine the future of the First Year Inquiry model and establish whether it should be included or excluded from the proposed GE Curriculum. Godar reported that the First Year Experience Advisory Group has a proposal prepared and noted it was shared with the GE Council during the past year. The documents will be circulated to the new members of the GE Council.
  - b. Programs should be presented in segments to the Senate during fall 2009 meetings for incremental approval. Godar noted that faculty interest and substantial buy in of the proposal is crucial to approval and the process of presenting the programs in segments to the Senate was discussed. Godar also noted that each segment should be accompanied by a one page rationale/description/implementation plan.
  - c. The complete proposal should come before the Senate for a final vote on November 23, 2009.
  - d. Assessable learning objectives for new curriculum should be developed by December, 2009.
  - e. Approval of courses in will begin in spring 2010 with implementation of new curriculum in fall 2011.
  - f. Godar noted that the Council should expect constant feedback from the Senate during the upcoming year and that Senate Vice Chair Esther Martinez will be working very closely with the GE Council, providing support when needed.

- g. Discussion regarding the approval process and timeline continued. Concern was expressed that some departments are not speaking with one voice, not just Senators. It was also noted that the proposal will need support and commitment from the entire faculty, not just Senators. The suggestion was made to survey the wider community, perhaps including Alumni, to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the current proposal and solicit feedback as to what should be included in the GE Curriculum. No decision was made on drafting/sending out a survey.
  - h. Godar distributed a draft of Student Learning Outcomes for skills and broad areas of knowledge for council members to review. The document may be useful to the subcommittee that is expected to be formed to draft the Student Learning Outcomes.
  - i. Godar reported that the Board of Trustees approved the 120 credit minimum required for graduation. This lowered minimum will become effective for students entering the University in fall 2010. Godar noted that the Board would not be making the decision as to where the 8 credits will be removed and Administration will not decide this without faculty input.
  - j. A brief discussion on the state mandated transfer agreement, as it relates to General Education, followed. It was noted during the discussion that foreign language and the existing non-western requirements may be impacted by the transfer agreement. Godar noted that the Undergraduate Council and Faculty Senate will have to decide whether to make foreign language a graduation requirement. It was also noted that there will be a one year gap between implementation of the 120 credit minimum graduation requirement (fall 2010) and implementation of a revised GE curriculum (fall 2011). What plans are in place to deal with the 8 credits that need to be removed? Although speculative, the credits will probably come from electives and students will need to obtain GE waivers. Godar also noted that the Dean's Council is aware of the situation and will plan accordingly.
  - k. Godar reiterated a few points made earlier in terms of presenting multiple models to the Senate and the importance of moving forward with a proposal. Middle States was quite specific in their recommendations about revising GE and meeting these expectations is key to the university. The suggestion was made to review the memo from the Provost as well as Standards 11 and 12 from Middle States' *Characteristics of Excellence in Higher Education* and the LEAP documents from AAC&U.
3. Verdicchio announced that election of officers was the next order of business. Before commencing, Godar indicated that the leadership of the council would be doing a substantial amount of work and that release time may be granted, although this issue was still being discussed with Administration.
- a. Before nominations, the structure of leadership was discussed and most felt the Council would benefit from having co-chairs. Frank Pavese moved to have leadership be comprised of co-chairs; Christine Kelly seconded. Motion carried unanimously. A closed ballot was also requested.

- b. Further discussion ensued as to whether the co-chairs should be from the same college or would it better to have individuals from different colleges. Kathy Silgailis moved to elect two co-chairs from two different colleges; George Robb seconded. Motion carried with two abstentions.
  - c. Floor open for nominations. Robb nominated Christine Kelly, (Humanities & Social Sciences), Lorra Brown nominated Ron Verdicchio, (Education) who declined the nomination, Peter Griswold nominated John Peterman (HSS), Mahmoud Watad nominated Jean Levitan (Science & Health), Watad also nominated Kathy Malanga (Cheng Library). Rob McCallum moved to close nominations; Nancy Weiner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
  - d. Steve Hahn and Esther Martinez collected and counted the ballots and reported the results. Jean Levitan and Kathy Malanga were elected co-chairs of the council.
  - e. Discussion ensued since Malanga does not represent a college and after some debate, the vote was certified. Peter Griswold moved to certify the vote because the results are faithful to the spirit of the co-chair requirements; Kathy Silgailis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Jean Levitan noted that we should revisit some of the principles we have all agreed upon and examine the LEAP documents and Middle States documents before the next meeting. Kathy Malanga noted that we need to reflect upon the essential tasks facing the Council and subdivide them among Council members to work on since we are working on a tight schedule. The remainder of the meeting was spent on scheduling the next meeting and determining the preliminary availability of Council members during the summer. Jean and Kathy will confirm the next meeting date and time via email.

Meeting adjourned at 2:12pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Weiner