**General Education Policy Review Committee**

**Minutes of the October 29, 2009 Meeting.**

Present: Gary Olsen, John Houghton, Randy Olson, James Sage, Julie Schneider, Robert Sirabian, Greg Summers, Mary Holland.

Guest: Chris Sadler.

Called to order at 8:03am.

The minutes of Oct 15 were approved.

The minutes of Oct 22 were corrected to state that proposed additional math requirements would affect only students seeking a Bachelors of Fine Arts or Music (rather than all BA students). The minutes were corrected to state that Experiential Learning is clarified as a distinction.

New Business:

1. Chris Sadler – Interdisciplinary Certificates discussion.

Chris Sadler presented how our Senate has approved (and other campuses) offer certificates to allow students to specialize with a concentration of inter-disciplinary higher-level courses; versus taking a minor. It allows students to explore subjects without declaring a major or minor. Students can also benefit having this on their resume and it will help them find jobs.

An Interdisciplinary Certificate is different from a certificate within a major. When this passed it needs support from Administration as it is very popular with students and their parents. It doesn’t require a lot of oversight but does require governance approval. The Interdisciplinary Certificate does not have to be team-taught.

How can this help us with Themes? The committee discussed offering students a grab bag of options, having to check a box by either taking 1, a 3-credit designated Interdisciplinary Course at any level (team taught or faculty trained in two disciplines) or 2, an Interdisciplinary Certificate or 3, an Interdisciplinary Minor or 4, a two course sequence.

Chris Sadler thanked the committee for the work we are doing.

1. Revise Step 4 document.

The committee discussed changing the title to Interdisciplinary Studies.

Minors and Certificates have to be administered by a department. The committee considered the idea of having a department set up Themes in advance, with Learning Outcomes requiring the student to not just take the courses but also demonstrate an assessable connection between disciplines. The committee discussed who would oversee this. Step 5 is how to determine the criteria for an Inter-disciplinary course.

The committee discussed if Critical Thinking could dovetail well with a 3—credit First Year Seminar.

The committee discussed changing the name from Writing in the Major to Communicating in the Major. If we change the name we are changing the Learning Outcomes. The committee discussed the opportunity for the major to decide what to focus on. If the Learning Outcomes are written broadly then departments have the flexibility to focus on what they like; to give departments as much flexibility as possible.

For next week: Greg Summers will re-write the Inter-Disciplinary Learning Outcomes and the Integration level. Julie Schneider will re-write the explanation of the First Year Seminar. Robert Sirabian will re-write the explanation of Communicating in the Major, and the Capstone in the Major with no credits attached. James Sage will work on Global Studies. Don Guay will work on Wellness.

Adjourned at 9:53am.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Holland.