**MINUTES – GENERAL EDUCATION POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE** (GEPRC)

**ROOM D281, Science – October 5, 2011, 9 a.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. Guay, N. Fernando J. Houghton, G. Olsen, R. Olson, J. Rohrer, J. Sage, J. Schneider, R. Sirabian

MEMBERS ABSENT: M. Bixby

1. D. Guay called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. The minutes of September 21, 2011 and September 28, 2011 were approved by general consent.

3. Announcements.

* D. Guay reported that there hadn’t been any comments submitted on the Step 6 proposal to-date. J. Sage informed the GEPRC that there were still issues related to SharePoint permissions that would allow for viewing of the proposal but not for replying. The option of emailing comments to the GEPRC co-chairs had been given in the Message of the Day and in the proposal. A notification will be forwarded to campus once the permission issues are resolved.

4. There was no old business.

5. New Business:  
  
Open Forum Planning  
Open forums are scheduled for October 19, 3-5 p.m., Room 116 CPS, and October 20, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Room 303 CCC. D. Guay informed the GEPRC that he would be unable to attend the October 19 forum; G. Olsen will be unable to attend October 20.  
  
J. Sage shared that Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) members had inquired if there would be a formal presentation given at the forums. R. Sirabian suggested that an overview of the proposal highlighting key points be prepared for the forums. He advised that an overview would help in equipping attendees for discussion. G. Olsen suggested using the Step 6 proposal table of contents for structuring an overview. The committee reviewed a PowerPoint overview given at a previous forum. The committee decided what information would be appropriate for inclusion in the Step 6 proposal overview.   
D. Guay will prepare a draft PowerPoint overview for GEPRC review and feedback. J. Sage volunteered to include information regarding the assessment plan previously presented to a different group. R. Sirabian voiced his favor in including the assessment information. He noted that the GEPRC should be prepared to provide explanations and rationale for its decisions. He questioned if it might be possible for Interim Provost Summers to attend the forums to answer any funding questions that may be asked.   
R. Sirabian anticipates that questions related to resources are likely. He stated the importance in giving whatever information was available; even if it was a matter of it being unknown. He surmised that faculty and staff would appreciate the openness.  
  
J. Sage informed the GEPRC that the long form of the General Education Director position had been forwarded to Hayes-Hill. He advised that Provost Nook had set aside some funding for the position and Vice Chancellor Diemer had been notified of additional funds that would be required. J. Sage offered that another possible option for funding, albeit temporary, would be the growth agenda grants through UW System. He advised that some strides had been made.  
  
R. Sirabian inquired whether there may be flexibility offered in terms of student credit hours (SCH) for promoting the GEP. He shared that there may be fears related to SCH due to lower enrollments. R. Olsen advised that SCH was only one of many factors involved in personnel decisions. It was noted that the Faculty Senate had discussed SCH the previous academic year and had directed that SCH be reviewed and a recommendation brought back to the Faculty Senate.  
  
R. Sirabian asked if explanation of degree requirements should be provided. The GEPRC will note during the timeline portion of the overview that the AAC had approved the degree requirements which were subsequently approved by Faculty Senate, May 2011. It will also be noted that the degree requirements had been revised by the AAC and those revisions were approved by Faculty Senate September 2011.  
  
J. Sage will extend invitations to the forums to AAC chair, Todd Huspeni, Curriculum Committee chair, Nathan Wetzel, and General Education Committee (GEC) chair, Nancy LoPatin-Lummis. He asked if the forums would be videotaped. D. Guay stated that   
G. Summers had arranged videotaping in the past. G. Olsen volunteered to arrange for videotaping, but asked J. Sage to arrange for the funding thereof.  
  
Advising Reference Guide  
  
J. Schneider shared her understanding that a work group would be convened to address the advising reference guide. J. Sage informed the GEPRC that Kathy Davis had volunteered to head up UW-Stevens Point advising reform. The Student Academic Advising Center had been placed under the Learning Resource Center structure in the recent Academic Affairs restructuring. J. Sage informed GEPRC members that he would be meeting with K. Davis and Angie Kellogg October 6. He advised that advising reform would require coordination with the deans. He noted the possibility of a group involved in the advising reform working on an advising reference guide. He shared that the Center for Academic Excellence & Student Engagement was contemplating offering a two-day advising workshop during the summer months. J. Sage noted that what was being contemplated was more general in nature, e.g., principles of advising, literature of advising as a function of teaching. He advised that colleges and departments varied in their advising practices. D. Guay asked if there was anything that the GEPRC should be doing in regard to the advising reference guide. J. Schneider expressed her interest in participating in the advising reference guide work group. She anticipated that draft reference guides might be forwarded to the GEPRC for review and feedback. J. Sage advised that the GEP advising reference guide would be under the authority of the GEC.   
  
J. Schneider suggested providing the workgroup with a beginning framework.   
R. Sirabian noted that the framework could be a basic outline of key considerations.   
D. Guay suggested that a listing of key points for advisors be generated by the GEPRC to serve as a starting point for the workgroup. A blank document will be put in the GEPRC work area that GEPRC members can add key items related to advising to. The listing will be revisited in a couple weeks. The committee added a number of initial items to the listing, e.g. silver bullet opportunities, assessment issues, GEP credit rules, summer orientation advising, degree requirements, courses for general students versus specific audiences, in the major requirements, understanding the dual nature of Experiential Learning, understanding the dual nature of Interdisciplinary Studies, First Year Seminar, the value of a liberal arts education. Discussion followed on the value of a liberal arts education. J. Sage expressed his desire for all UW-Stevens Point faculty and staff to be able to provide an explanation of the value of a liberal arts education. He advised that some were reluctant to relate liberal arts education to jobs. He stated that liberal arts education was what employers were looking for; all benefits of a liberal arts education needed to be synthesized. J. Schneider agreed that it was beneficial for all students and parents to hear the explanation. She noted that presently an explanation of the value of a liberal arts education was given at orientation.

J. Schneider inquired what the timeframe was for the General Education Director.   
J. Sage advised that the General Education Director may be in place by June 2012.   
G. Olsen asked how the GEC was progressing. J. Sage and R. Sirabian advised that GEC members had good attitudes and appeared to be embracing the committee work necessary. R. Sirabian added that the GEC had plans underway for general degree requirement (GDR) proposals, grandfathering GDR courses to GEP designations, a form for GEP proposals, and had prioritized the initiatives. A brief discussion followed of the benefit in having GEP courses offered by a variety of areas from across campus.

J. Schneider asked what progress has been made regarding degree requirements.   
R. Sirabian shared that the English Department was contemplating offering only a B.A. He noted that it would be beneficial in degree requirement decision-making for the multiple degree policy issue to be resolved. Discussion followed of double degrees (B.A./B.S.) and the associated 30-credit rule. J. Schneider advised that the requirement of an additional 30 credits for those seeking a second degree was related to financial aid. She noted the federal interpretation of the 30-credit rule. She will suggest to Todd Huspeni to speak with Paul Watson, Financial Aid director, for information and clarification. A brief discussion followed of the Academic Affairs Committee discussion of a general baccalaureate degree.

6. The meeting was adjourned by general consent at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes Recorded by: Nanci Simon, Secretary to the Faculty Senate