**General Education Policy Review Committee**

**Minutes of the November 23, 2010 Meeting**

Present: Don Guay, Gary Olsen, Michael Bixby, John Houghton, Randy Olson, James Sage, Julie Schneider, Greg Summers, Mary Holland.

Guests: Chris Sadler and Katie Stern.

Called to order at 3:04pm.

The minutes of November 9 were amended.

Announcements.

1. Julie Schneider announced AAC approved a draft proposal for degree type requirements to go out to the campus for feedback.
2. Greg Summers announced there is a ½-time Catalog Editor currently and a position request for a full-time Catalog Editor. There is going to be a Catalog committee for a more robust on-line catalog that can be archived. Then the printed catalog will be looked at.

Old Business. Update Step 5 draft.

1. Integration level. Inter-disciplinary Studies.

The committee discussed that there is no single place where every Inter-disciplinary course fits; therefore the learning outcomes need to be broad enough to accommodate all these courses. Any department will have to look at the learning outcomes and figure out where these courses fit; some programs may have a lot of overlap. Departments must determine which disciplines are being taught in each inter-disciplinary course.

The requirements were updated to replace the words “the course content, methods and related learning outcomes [must be closely related to two distinct categories]” instead of the word “disciplines involved”. This needs to be fleshed out in the Explanation.

For a single Inter-disciplinary Studies course the bullet, “students shall complete a minimum of 24-credits before enrolling in an ID Studies course” was changed to “sophomore standing”. The committee commented that a discussion with Dan Kellogg is needed to learn technically what is possible to be programmed in.

New Business

1. Chris Sadler from the Division of Communication met with the committee to discuss the GEP change from 2- to 3-credits of Oral Communication.

Chris Sadler explained the history of the Comm 101 course. It was taught by faculty many years ago, and then changed to a large 1-hour/wk lecture taught by faculty with graduate students teaching 2-hour/wk discussion sections. Many students complain that the course is configured for 3-credits of work; in addition for students transferring to other universities, the 2-credit course was not accepted for transfer credits.

Chris Sadler explained that a portion of the course has to do with group presentations which require a lot of work in preparation, training and feedback. How the Comm 101 course is changing to meet the 3-credit requirement is that it will include electronic means of communication. The new Learning Outcomes can’t be achieved in a 2-credit course and will drive intentional changes into the future. For example, some Div of Communication professors have expressed an interest in offering classes for specially-focused programs (towards science majors, or history and social science majors). It is something being discussed now.

Chris Sadler answered why other professors across campus are generally not as qualified to teach Comm 101. Chris Sadler explained that Communication professors are uniquely qualified and excel at teaching the fundamentals of Oral Communication. The department professors are specially trained and familiar with the issues such as how to deal with speech anxiety throughout each part of a speech.

The reason grad students seeking their Masters degree are extremely effective for teaching the discussion sections, as noted by the course evaluations, is that they are so well trained and evaluated. In addition they are passionate to teach public speaking and are good students themselves. There is no backlog of students who can’t register for Comm 101 because so many sections are offered.

Oral Communication and English are handled differently because every student has to take these two courses for all majors; these are the common starting points for all students at UWSP. They lay down the foundation that other courses can expand upon.

The committee thanked Chris Sadler and requested a brief or comment from the Division of Communication on what they’d like the new Comm 101 to look like and what changes are anticipated to meet the new Learning Outcomes.

1. Dan Kellogg has questions regarding programming of the new GEP program. The committee discussed changing the name of the program and it was agreed to continue calling it the GEP program.

The committee discussed if double-dipping is allowed within the sidebar. A bullet was added to clarify that a single course cannot fulfill more than one requirement within the Cultural & Environmental Awareness Category. The committee discussed that the US Diversity needs to be counted towards meeting the UW-System ethnic diversity requirement. The committee agreed to recommend the letters EXP to designate courses that satisfy the Experiential Learning requirement.

Homework: Review the Explanation so it can be edited in the next meeting. Julie Schneider will come up with a double-dipping course grid.

Adjourned at 4:59pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Holland.