**General Education Policy Review Committee**

**Minutes of the November 9, 2010 Meeting**

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

Called to order at 3:04pm.

The minutes of October 26 were amended.

Announcements.

1. Robert Sirabian distributed “*Brief statement about considerations for Communication in the Major*” a list of talking points for the 3-5pm Thursday meeting with the College of Letters & Science chairs and faculty.
2. Julie Schneider said the Degree Requirements Subcommittee met and decided to bring their draft document forward to the AAC meeting on Monday where it will be discussed.

Old Business. Update Step 5 draft.

1. Investigation level.

The committee updated the language to include language that supports courses at the investigation level that are designed to serve one of two General Education populations: a) survey courses for General Education, or b) introduction courses for majors and related fields.

1. Interdisciplinary Studies.

The committee discussed the suggestion as an alternative to co-instructors, to have an instructor with a consultant who represents another discipline. The committee agreed the language is sufficient to allow this option with no changes in language.

The committee discussed if courses will need to be re-approved with each new instructor. The committee agreed to trust the department to staff the course appropriately with assessment to reinforce the standard. The committee agreed the burden of proof would be on the coordinator of the department to defend how the proposed Interdisciplinary program is knitted together.

1. Experiential Learning.

The committee discussed if a student had an appropriate experience prior to enrollment if that could meet the Experiential Learning requirement. The committee discussed if we allow any prior learning where is the line drawn?

The committee moved the Experiential Learning Activity bullets up to the second bullet point to make them more visible. The reference to “ELA” was changed to “Experiential Learning requirement”.

The committee discussed the suggestion that the Experiential Learning requirement be identified by 75 credits (junior year) instead of 90 credits. The committee agreed that any department can require students to identify their Experiential Learning Activity by fewer credits if they choose, but to leave it as flexible now as it is.

1. Communication in the Major.

The committee amended designation from 300-level to 200-level or above. The committee discussed if 6-credit minimum could be reduced; it was left as is.

The committee discussed if the bullet that starts with typically should be deleted or moved for the purpose of inclusion in the handbook. Because this is handbook language the explanation must be kept brief. The committee agreed to move the last bullet to the Explanation. It was agreed at the beginning of a new General Education program it is important to be as flexible as possible, to trust departments to take it seriously, and trust assessment will cultivate improvements when appropriate.

The committee amended the last two bullets to simplify the language and not restrict any departmental Communication in the Major plans. The committee discussed that vetting of the criteria needs to be done in Step 5 but vetting of how to administer this still needs to be left open because there are several ways to get to the same result. If every major is required to have the same General Education requirements then each department must figure out how to meet those requirements.

Adjourned at 4:58pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Holland.