**General Education Policy Review Committee**

**Minutes of the December 14, 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 November 3 were amended.

Announcements.

1. Based on the Doodle calendar there is a window of time available for everyone on Thursdays from 9-12 am during the spring semester. It was agreed to meet from 9-11am on Thursdays during the spring semester.
2. It was agreed to meet from 1-3 pm during the winter break on January 4, 11 and 18.
3. It was agreed the target date to have the Proposal 5 draft out for more feedback is Jan 24.

Old Business – Update Step 5 draft.

1. Communication in the Major Explanation.

Robert Sirabian submitted a complete revision of the Communication in the Major explanation. The committee discussed changing the example of how to spread 6-credits between two or more courses. The committee discussed deleting mention of any specific numbers of credits in the example.

The committee discussed changing the wording to suggest how other departments may offer Comm in the Major courses. The committee discussed if WE certification would be grand-fathered in, or would those teaching a Comm in the Major course need to attend a workshop for both written and oral communication? As a committee this needs to be agreed upon.

The committee discussed the workshop requirement for teaching a Comm in the Major course. Ideas included requiring one person per department be trained in a workshop, frequency of training workshops, guidelines that need to be established, perhaps an on-line tutorial as well as a voluntary workshop option. It was agreed to discuss this more in the future.

1. Cultural and Environmental Awareness.

The committee moved this section up between the Investigation and Integration levels for both the proposal and the explanation, with revisions to the proposal.

1. Experiential Learning.

The committee discussed the credit-bearing option and revised the first bullet to read “*courses may include but not limited to .* . .“ The committee revised the non-credit-bearing option, to add “*must meet the following criteria*” followed by a list of different kinds of ELA. The committee discussed possibly adding a definition of Service Learningand discussed moving the ELA definitions to the Explanation section. Since all faculty and academic staff have at least a bachelor’s degree, the committee removed mention of the ELA Mentor level of education. The requirement that students identify their ELA by 90 credits was also removed so as not to cause delays in students’ progress to graduation. Students and their advisors should be discussing how to meet the EL requirement early and often throughout the advising process.

1. Explanation of the Proposal.

The committee discussed thanking campus for their feedback and explaining how it has changed the proposal. The committee discussed starting with a summary of major changes from Step 5b to 5c, showing that concerns were heard and addressed, and perhaps listing things that have not been changed.

1. Instructor Qualifications.

The committee discussed how there were opposing points of view expressed regarding instructor qualifications. The committee discussed clarifying how each department or unit is responsible for proposing all GEP courses and how therefore each department or unit is responsible for vetting instructors.

1. Foundation.

The committee added “*FYS 105*: Foundations of Critical Inquiry (GEP: FYS and Environmental Responsibility).

1. Wellness.

The committee added to the explanation that Wellness requirement could be met with 1-, 2-, or 3-credit courses.

1. Investigation.

The committee defined two audiences to allow more flexibility in response to some feedback expressing a need for more rigorous instructor criteria.

1. Interdisciplinary Studies.

The committee revised from listing a number of credits to “*sophomore-standing*”.

Homework: Work on the Explanation

Gary Olsen – General Criteria.

Greg Summers – Instructor Qualifications and Investigation.

James Sage – Experiential Learning Proposal and Explanation.

Nisha Fernando – Integration.

Randy Olson – Foundation.

Robert Sirabian – Communication in the major.

Adjourned at 5:02pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Holland.