**General Education Policy Review Committee**

**Minutes of the February 4, 2010 Meeting**

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

Guest: Annie Wetter.

Called to order at 3:41pm.

The minutes of January 19 were corrected.

New Business:

1. Wellness.

Annie Wetter and Marty Loy believe teaching Wellness is most effectively achieved when it’s more integrated throughout the curriculum. Wellness is actually a skill that is developed throughout a college career and life. If relegated to a 1-credit course it seems separate and apart from overall development.

The 7 Dimensions of Wellness were intended to fill a 1-credit course that was asked of us. They are 7 simplified learning outcomes. A lack of wellness is the source for many current health problems in the US. Wellness is more than being active and doing well. We want to empower people and encourage them to seek reflective ways to live.

The Committee is concerned about pulling the proposal back from Academic Affairs without first receiving a comment from Academic Affairs. The committee is worried where are the Wellness courses are going to fit in? The committee is concerned about being able to bring up enough classes in order to meet the new demand. Which instructors are going to be qualified to teach this? The committee was asked to develop a program between 40-45 credits. We did not do that, we have a 45-48 credits. If we move Wellness to the sidebar we would need so many 3-credit courses that we would have to phase this requirement in over a number of years.

The committee asked why in the past courses have not plugged into creating more Wellness courses.

Annie Wetter responded she’s not sure but in the past Wellness was a 1 and 2 credit requirement; if it had been a 3-credit course she believes more professors would be encouraged to seamlessly integrate Wellness.

Annie asked if it would be appropriate to go to Academic Affairs with a list of current courses that would be open to a university-wide audience that meet Wellness. She agreed to do some background work to identify possible courses that could support a 3 credit integrated Wellness requirement.

There are lots of other courses which could incorporate Wellness. All seven dimensions of Wellness learning outcomes if spread across campus could not all be met by every course. But a single course could identify all seven and then focus on only one or two dimensions.

Follow Up discussion to Wellness.

At this point what are the available options? To pull the Step 4d document back from Academic Affairs and amend it or wait to see if they will send it back to us to amend if they don’t want to approve it as is? It might be good to get response to pg. 16 Wellness explanation statement.

The committee hopes this is not still the same general education program 20 years from now; we hope assessment will drive changes. The committee would like to get a response from Academic Affairs on the Wellness issue.

1. Step 5 Survey.

The Step 5 Survey is going to individual faculty members. The committee amended several of the draft questions.

1. Discussion of Step 5.

In our discussion of Step 5 it would be useful not to reference the current department and course numbers. In the best world people should be able to refer to learning outcomes and then measure them with assessment to submit a course for approval.

The course approval criteria must clarify who is qualified to teach the course. The committee discussed if instructor approval is also based on “proof by assessment” expertise versus purely by degreed training/credentials [a terminal degree].

The committee discussed how to define, with some wiggle room, who has qualified to teach a course. The committee discussed creating a template of criteria that automatically meets the qualifications and then how do you define the rest? Take out whether fill time or part time out of the equation.

The committee discussed that one of the problems with current system is that we have had little assessment of approved courses. We need to have it written in 2 steps: Course Approval and Instructor Approval. If we have some exceptions then for example those with a PhD and a separate masters degree who also have research. We want to trust that the future committee will be able to judge appropriately such as: PhD and PhD track, Masters and Masters Track or tenure track. The sidebar courses would also have different instructor criteria

For our next meeting the committee will research other universities on how they define qualifications for course approvals and instructor approval.

Adjourned at 5:16pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Holland.