**General Education Policy Review Committee**

**Minutes of the March 18 Meeting**

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

Called to order at 3:40pm.

The minutes of March 11 were amended.

New Business:

1. Survey Results.

Policy Analysis has confirmed they will crunch numbers from survey during Spring Break. There are 128 respondents so far. Over 60 are interested in teaching a First Year Seminar, and we have already received questions when the FYS training sessions will be taught.

1. Step 4 minor corrections.

The committee discussed minor editorial changes to Step 4 that have been suggested. The committee corrected them and we’ll send this forward to the Faculty Senate with a brief memo for the next available meeting agenda.

1. Discussion of step 5 – Foundation Level.

The Academic Affairs meeting gave approval for a First Year Seminar with a 5-year window to institute this. The committee approved that students will substitute the FYS with 3 additional credits at the investigation level.

The committee has spoken to Dan Kellogg about having FYS courses labeled as FYS with a subtitle.

The committee discussed First Year Seminar training. The University of South Carolina workshop has training every May and we could ask someone to go to that training. Or possibly ask them to come here. Perhaps Appalachian State would be available for a more than 1-day workshop. This summer do we want to start training the FYS trainers? Perhaps train 10 this summer and have a pilot program next year. Ideally we’d like resources developed over time. April 9 is a 3-4 free Training Workshop coming here from UW-Green Bay. Their program is only a year old with 12 sections. It’s an option for their students.

The committee discussed changes to the FYS criteria. The committee discussed if the FYS can be required by a major? It can be only a side benefit but it can’t be the main focus for a major. The committee feels that no major can require a certain section of FYS.

The committee discussed if the FYS must be three one-hour classes a week or could it take on some alternative model. The committee discussed if all instructors must take a training workshop. The logistics of getting the FYS up and running will be a big deal. If we start adding more and more structure to the criteria then it gets to be too much. We’d like to hold the cap at 20 students. The smaller the group the better they work. And we may never be able to get the whole freshman class to take this course.

Homework Come back with Foundation courses and Criteria for them.

Adjourned at 5:24pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Holland.