**General Education Policy Review Committee**

**Minutes of the September 7 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 3:05pm.

The minutes of August 31 were amended.

Announcements.

1. John Houghton distributed “*Comments from the General Criteria/Cultural and Environmental Awareness Listening Session*”.
2. Randy Olson distributed “*Institutions in Wisconsin*”.

New Business: Review comments from the Open Forum.

1. General Criteria.

The committee discussed changing the wording of the proposal to clearly state that each department is in charge of instructor approval and insuring faculty credentials; except in the case of Interdisciplinary courses. Even with multi-tracks it is still the responsibility of the department to staff the course with appropriate instructor qualifications. This is driven by HLC particularly because the committee is planning to have a stronger and more robust course assessment.

The onus is in the department to submit the course proposal and instructor qualifications delineated in a form for course proposal as part of Step 6. The question of who to consult may always seem arbitrary and unfair; but as the university does not have any of this in place now, anything added will be more than what is currently done.

Some comments suggest that the GEC form subcommittees to protect the instructor qualifications when approving courses. If the GEC sees this being abused then they can always revise it.

All Open Forum feedback is due September 17th The committee should make recommendations on how to look at the GEC proposal and get more feedback to craft a response during the Sept 14 meeting.

The committee discussed the possibility of ignoring the issue of instructor qualifications, as it is the responsibility of the department for staffing a course. If there would be questions re. an instructor’s qualifications the GEC may consult the appropriate departments.

The committee discussed if an Interdisciplinary course could also a Global Awareness course. Yes at the Integration level, but not at the Investigation level.

The committee discussed how the Gen Ed program should be fully understandable by students. The committee discussed the students won’t need to know what is prohibited because what is prohibited won’t be available.

The committee discussed if the top layer has created degree requirements instead of only Gen Ed program requirements. The committee discussed the Open Forum feedback received lots of people wanting Gen Ed requirements added to the degree requirements. The committee defense is that each department is to take on our graphic but for the degree; but the Gen Ed requirements don’t determine the exact courses.

The committee discussed if a student transfers to UWSP with an associate’s degree the Interdisciplinary Studies and Experiential Learning requirements should be wiped out.

The committee discussed if at the Foundation level could a student test out for AP credits? For Quantitative Literacy? The committee agreed to discuss this more and clear up the questions, such as should there be a minimum of Math 90 or Math 100?

Homework: Look at the General Education Committee Proposal and be ready to discuss it.

Adjourned at 5:03pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Holland.