Minutes

General Education Council
Friday, January 29, 2010

Attendance:
Maurianne Adams, Bruce Baird, John Cunningham, Alexandrina Deschamps, Isabel Espinal, Ginger Etinde, David Fleming, Stephen Gencarella, Judy Goodenough, Patricia Gubitosi, Claire Hamilton, Anne Herrington, Gary Kamen, Mark Leckie, John Lenzi, Pamela Marsh-Williams, Dori McCracken, Mathew Ouellett, Martha Stassen, Jimmy Cheung, Jared Rose, Razvan Sibii, Jesse Cox

Minutes:
The minutes of December 18, 2009 were PASSED by the Council.

New Business

Report from Freshman Writing Program – David Fleming reported that there is a plan for reduction in class size for all sections of the Jr. Year Writing Program, with a goal of 15 (from 24) students per class during 2010-2011.

Davis Foundation – Martha reported on the possibility of applying to the Davis Foundation for support for the Integrative Experience program. A small group from the Council is working with her on this proposal, which she hopes to present to the Council at its March meeting.

Old Business:

Report on 4th Credit Proposal (fall cycle) – Martha reported that 70% of the proposals have been approved. For the spring cycle (proposals due on Feb 15th), they have already received seven courses. No word yet on the funding requests for the 4th credit proposals. It was suggested that the 4th credit impact on faculty work load be negotiated through individual schools and departments, but tracked through the MSP and Faculty Senate. The 4th credit ‘drop-in sessions’ went well last Fall and will be repeated this semester.

Integrative Experience – It was agreed by the council that, the review, buy-in, and implementation should not be hastily developed, as the Council needs to take a broader and deeper institutional/organizational overview. The Council reviewed the spreadsheet of proposed steps for the I.E., which was distributed by Martha Stassen. Under ‘Organizing Principles’ an addition was made to the second bullet, which now reads, “Important to work on ‘buy-in’ at Dean, Department, instructor and student level.” It was noted that student feedback should be actively solicited as part of the campus ‘buy-in.’ Under ‘Implementation Timeline’ a new requirement was listed under ‘Fall 2010’ which included completion of approval process. The Council discussed the goals statements distributed by Maurianne. It was concluded that the statements should be redrafted for consideration at the March meeting. The new draft will be based on statements already approved by the Faculty Senate vote on the IE option.

Quinquennial Reviews: Maurianne asked the Council to complete QQ-reviews that were distributed from summer ’09 and fall ’09, by February 22, 2010. They will be stream-lined by three categories: 1) recommended approval; 2) needs more information and 3) concerns that need to be brought to the Council. The revised rubrics will be electronically distributed to Council members by Ginger. It was suggested that in time, the 5-year review include reflections on learning, however, the departments would have to buy into it.

Next Meeting: Friday, February 26th, 2010 at 2:30 PM, in the Chancellor’s Board Room, 370 Whitmore.