Attendance:
Maurianne Adams, Stephanie Chapko, Isabel Espinal, Ginger Etinde, David Fleming, Steve Gencarella, Judy Goodenough, Patricia Gubitosi, Claire Hamilton, John Jenkins, Sarah Jenness, Arthur Keene, Mark Leckie, John Lenzi, Ernest May, Dori McCracken, Matt Ouelette, Jarred Rose, Martha Stassen, Razvan Sibii

Minutes:
The Council made minor corrections and the minutes of October 29, 2010 were PASSED.

19 Credit Maximum; John Jenkins:
John Jenkins summarized the purpose of the AMC recommendation for a 19 credit maximum overload. The difficulty is that students in majors that have not set the maximum overload at 19 credits must wait for advisor approval and thus lose the opportunity to enroll in needed courses. The AMC has proposed campus approval of the 19 credit maximum overload so that such students are not penalized. John Lenzi noted that only 8% of the student population is registered for 19 credits. Ernie May stressed that there will be a need for greater depth of time devoted to homework for those with 19 credits, and suggested that this be referred back to departments and the Joint Task Force for further deliberation. Art Keene raised the issue that with a large course load, students may learn how to cut corners. He wants to create the idea of ‘rigor’ instead and endorses a 15-16 credit load. Razvan Sibii also concurred with a lower credit load and asked if the 19 credits could be reversed to 15-16 once established. Stephanie Chapko asked if the increase could be piloted for a few years due to the concerns expressed.

The Council passed two motions, one in support of an AMC revised recommendation, and the second to add an Observation for Faculty Senate discussion. These motions are as follows:

AMC Revised Recommendation (supported by GEC): Based on a student fairness issue (that is, access to self-register for courses in a timely manner) as our primary concern, the AMC proposes that the maximum credit load for a semester be raised to 19 credits. This is designed primarily to meet the needs of upper-division students. Unless otherwise previously approved, departments, schools and colleges wishing a higher or lower maximum will be required to submit a proposal requesting approval.

The GEC added the following observation for Faculty Senate consideration:
Observation: The General Education Council supports this proposal, with the understanding that the Faculty Senate will in the near future establish an ad hoc committee to study the related questions of maximum credit load and conditions for student in-depth engagement with coursework.

Change in IE Criterion:
The Council voted to remove the phrase, “…that connect their majors with other disciplines or areas of inquiry” from the 3rd criterion. Criterion 3 now reads: Offering students a shared learning experience for applying their prior learning to new situations, challenging questions, and real-world problems.

Transfer Students & IE
Stephanie Chapko summarized that transfers do not come in with full credits. Admissions usually calculate course requirements according to expectations of what transfers are to come in with. She urged the Council for transfers to be exempt from the IE requirements. The following MOTION was MOVED:
‘Given the currently approved Massachusetts Commonwealth Transfer Compact (CTC) transfer credit agreement (expiring after Fall 2014), which exempts community college CTC graduates from UMass Amherst General Education requirements, UMass Amherst will exempt CTC graduates from the new Integrative Experience requirement.’

This MOTION was APPROVED by the Council.

**Online Submission:**
Sarah reviewed the online submission form for proposals as the members made comments, corrections and suggestions. It was noted that the listing of learning objectives is new to the process as the previous ‘form F’ did not reflect the learning objectives that were voted on by the Faculty Senate in 2009. The Council agreed that the gradation of answers within the learning objectives should include ‘primary/secondary/not at all’ instead of ‘yes/no.’ On page 8, item a, the word ‘summarize’ replaces ‘explain’ in the second sentence. On page 11, questions 2b & c are removed, as these questions are more ‘generic’ and not designation specific.

**Letter from Biology:**
The Council reviewed and made suggestions to the letter from Elizabeth Connors regarding IE criteria. Martha noted the absence of student reflection in the Biology proposal. Matt suggested that Maurianne write to inquire how the Biology proposal would meet the 1st Criterion, namely “Providing a structured, credited context for students to reflect on and to integrate their learning and experience from the broad exposure in their General Education courses and the focus in their major.”

**Next Meeting:** Friday, December 17, 2010 at 2:30 PM, in the Chancellor’s Board Room, 370 Whitmore.