

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

February 3, 2006
Minutes of the Meeting

Members:

Veronica Kenausis (chair), Jessica Bagues, Daryle Brown, Ron Drozdenko, Robin Flanagan, Bill Petkanas, Paula Secondo, Linda Vaden-Goad, Abbey Zink

Visitors: Robert Whittemore, Jeffrey Schlicht

The meeting convened at: 1:30pm

1. The minutes of the January 20, 2006 meeting were approved with amendments (8-0-1)
2. Veronica Kenausis discussed the University process for adopting the Gen Ed course approval form.
3. The remainder of the meeting focused on discussing a proposal developed by Rob Whittemore and Jeffrey Schlicht. The proposal, entitled "Passport to Paideia: Global Citizenship at WestConn," is intended to provide a way for students to explore what it means to make the most of a university education beyond the required curriculum. The "passport" will become a tool to encourage students to become global citizens through attendance and participation in university and outside cultural events.

The committee discussed the need for such a program to enrich the University experience for our students. While there was general agreement among committee members that some version of the program should be implemented in the first and possibly second year, there were concerns about implementation and the potential burden on students in the third and fourth years.

There was a suggestion that the committee should move forward to include a requirement for attending cultural events in the First Year Experience proposal. Some members felt it was necessary to implement and monitor the program for two years. Other members were concerned about who would be responsible for implementing and monitoring the program.

The discussion of the program will continued at future meetings. Related to the possible approval of some version of this proposal, Veronica Kenausis will explore and report back to the Committee on the proper University governance processes for introducing new Gen Ed programs.

Ron Drozdenko
Recorder