

## Minutes

*Western Connecticut State University General Education Committee 2008-2009*

*Minutes for Friday, March 13*

*Attendance: Chuck Rocca, Abbey Zink, Daryle Brown, Robin Flanagan, Alba Skar, Patty O'Neill, Kerry Walker-recorder*

- I. Minutes of February meeting (Motion to approve: Rocca/Brown): Approved with minor corrections. 1 abstention.*

### *II. Input from Community*

*Alba thought it was positive to focus on assessment for the summer since we are all full loads. Daryle agreed that assessment is not free and it cannot be an add-on.*

- II. Old Business*
  - a) FYE update (O'Neill)*

*Patty had spoken to Linda Vaden-Goad about Southern's three-way approach to FYE;*

*Track 1. Inquiry courses- the value of higher Ed is taught. Only FT (full-time faculty), 20 students maximum per section, faculty advise for the entire year.*

*Track 2. Honors College-First year seminar*

*Track 3. Links Track-two General Education courses are linked. For example, Psi 100 taken with a writing class and faculty loosely collaborate.*

*Retention rate is similar to ours for all 3 tracks. At Southern all three approaches reach all the FY (First Year) students. At Western we reach 1/3 with 2/3rds encountering FY in the traditional manner. The links approach may be an option worth exploring as the students will be taking the GE courses any way. Inquiry teachers get 1.5 extra credit because of additional advisement. (3 credit course, plus 1.5= 4.5 for the Inquiry course). GE courses would be most appropriate over higher Education. Alba commented on the benefits being connection from advisement and retention. (Patty pointed out our current retention is 72%)Patty handed out a graph of what sections of GE courses are offered by Depts. And then what % is taught by FT. To be an FY course it has to be a 100 level course and be offered more than once per week. Patty would like to talk to Nicole Henderson at Southern and draft a proposal.*

- b) Update on assessment of GE Curriculum (Flanagan)*

*Robin discussed results of MAP. Relative to the rest of the country our FY students are coming in better in writing, critical thinking and natural sciences. Robin suggested that the scores of the seniors is where we will see the value of the GE program by comparing to freshman scores.*

*Advantage of MAP is that it is scored by someone else, the test is already created and the national comparison is important. The budget for the Oklahoma assessment will be ready for the next meeting.*

*c) Writing Requirement (Flanagan)*

*Veronica spoke with Patrick Ryan in the writing dept. who recommended that another course would be needed in the major to improve writing. Robin's response is that the GE committee only has authority over GE curriculum. Abby responded that each individual dept. can opt for a "W" for their capstone project in their major by filling out paper work. Most people have the capstone but have not formalized the process. Discussion led the committee to believe that attempts to formalize the process further would only discourage faculty from the opportunity. Robin suggested that the discussion focusing on "writing" as a target could now close.*

*IV. New Business*

*a) WLL SPA 226 Global Immersion: Sain for Gen Ed (Bakhtarova/Skar)*

*Motion to approve (Rocca/Brown) Unanimous approval*

*B) List of GE requirements (Carvalho/Duffy)*

*A new list was created from the advising center*