

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY  
COMMITTEE ON GENERAL EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting, September 8, 2005

In Attendance: V. Kenausis (Ch), D. Brown, R. Flanagan, B. Petkanas, P. Secundo, K. Wiss (representing Dean of Arts & Sciences), A. Zink.

Visitors: D. Barrett, R. Gurkewitz, W. Joel.

I. The meeting was called to order at 8:17 a.m. The minutes of the meeting of September 1, 2005 were approved with the following emendations:

Under 4(b)i: strike "for those not in an AP course."

Under V.i: strike: "Are we crazy?????"

II. Old business: Course proposal form.

A. Visitor R. Gurkewitz suggested alternate wording for description of computer science requirement. She will forward this wording to Bill Petkanas.

B. Change foreign language requirement to new name of department (WLL).

C. Add "W" for courses which will always be writing intensive. Otherwise, it remains that sections of any course may be taught as writing intensive.

D. Add communication skills courses.

E. Discussion of FDS, SDS. Any of these which a department intended to fulfill a gen ed requirement should be approved by the Committee in accordance with its bylaws.

III. New Business

A. Meetings and minutes. Discussion: should we consider the two sessions a month one "meeting," calling for one set of minutes or two meetings? The Committee decided to consider them two meetings.

B. Restructuring the gen ed requirements. Discussion: Do we use or adapt the "temple of learning" (Gen Ed Task Force Final Report and Recommendations, p. 14) or generate new categories? Should we start with one category and recommend changes one at a time? The Committee agreed that it would be a positive step to move from department oriented requirements to broader objectives. There are certain expectations from NEASC that the Committee and the University must consider. B. Joel suggested using four areas of cognitive development. The committee agreed that any changes will be controversial. The Committee will continue to discuss restructuring the gen ed requirements along the lines of the task force report. K. Wiss reports that Dr. Stewart has some ideas on the issue; the Committee will invite him to attend the next meeting or otherwise invite him to contribute any ideas.

C. Participation: The Committee is eager to hear suggestions, comments, and proposals from everyone in the University community. It was decided that there should be a time set aside at each meeting for open comments from anyone interested in delivering them. Future agendas will include a specified time for this.

IV. Adjournment. There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2005, 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Petkanas