

The Committee on General Education
November 10, 2005
Haas Library
8:15 am

Committee members present: Veronica Kenausis (Chair), Bill Petkanas, Linda Vaden-Goad, Abbey Zink, and Robin Flanagan (recording).

Guests: Mary Nelson, Irene Duffy, Walter Cramer, Walter Bernstein, Roy Stewart, Allen Morton, and Dan Barrett.

Quorum was attained at 8:35 and the meeting came to order.

1. R. Flanagan was appointed recorder.
2. Mary Nelson gave a presentation “One Size Does Not Fit All” regarding her recommendations for what would work as a First Year Experience general education requirement for all students. Her basic message was that we needed to offer more than one solution because almost half of our students arrive unprepared for college-level work. She recommends an FYE Skills course, similar to our current PSY 120 for “at-risk” students in Fall semester, followed by a learning-community-type experience for these students in the Spring. Well-prepared students could do a learning-community-type experience in the Fall semester. See attached handout from her talk for more details.
3. The minutes of 10 13 05 meeting were approved unanimously (Petkanas/Flanagan)
4. Ron Drozdenko is new representative for Ancell. Jessica Bogues is the new representative for SGA..
5. Discussed First Year Experience options, based on Mary Nelson’s talk and research the committee has done. Three options emerged. 1) First Year Seminar similar to current PSY 120, anchored by a common syllabus, intensive academic skills focus with frequent feedback, as well as building connections to campus, faculty, resources, larger community. 2) Learning communities, where courses are linked or clustered so a single cohort takes two or more classes together and common themes can be addressed, with the addition of a one-credit “common interest” group. 3) Something in-between, which we labeled, vaguely, “First Year Experience”, which would be problem-centered, possibly two semesters for a single credit each semester. All three would be taught by full-time faculty.
6. In order to schedule our next meetings so that all our members can attend, members of the committee were asked to send their schedule to Veronica Kenausis. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.