

Western Connecticut State University  
General Education Committee

Minutes of the December 1, 2006 Meeting  
President's Conference Room  
1:30 pm

Members present: Abbey Zink, Paula Secondo, Ron Drozdenko, Daryle Brown, Veronica Kenausis (Chair), and Robin Flanagan (Recording).

Guests present: Marybeth Amyot, James Schmotter, Linda Rinker, Walter Bernstein, and Bill Petkanas.

The minutes of the November 16, 2006 meeting were approved (Secondo, Zink) with one abstention.

There were no comments from the community.

New Business:

1. Discussion with University Administration. After a short review of the composition of the FYE program proposal, President Schmotter stated that he endorses the program, and he would like to see a phase-in of the program that is driven primarily by how many faculty we can recruit for the program rather than by budgetary constraints. For 07-08, he supports a full 3-course phase-in for a portion of the first year students rather than a 1-course phase-in for all of the first year students, so that we have a cohort of students who have experienced the full program. He also urged the committee to limit the courses designated as FYE to courses that are taught by full-time faculty and that meet more than once a week. He went on record as saying "We'll do this," and "There is genius in this proposal." Provost Rinker urged the committee to have an assessment plan in place from day one of the program, and to examine scheduling issues.

At 2:20, President Schmotter, Provost Rinker, Vice President Amyot, and Vice President Bernstein left while the committee concluded its other business.

Concerns were raised about the awkwardness (and legality?) of having two sets of requirements for incoming freshmen. Because this program doesn't require any additional courses, just particular sections of courses freshmen have to take already, the committee hopes to avoid this problem. Early registration for FYE students was suggested as a way of ensuring that FYE students could fit the right sections of their courses into their second semester.

2. Motion to designate COM/PS 298 02 The Press and the Constitution taught by Todd Brewster as fulfilling either the Humanities/Communication general education requirement or the Social and Behavioral Sciences/Social Sciences

(Secondo, Zink) passed unanimously. Kenausis will send an email to the chair of CUCAS and to the Registrar notifying them of the designation.

3. The committee plans to send an email to all faculty urging them to consider teaching one of these sections and to attend the next Senate meeting to discuss further details of the program.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.