

**Academic Affairs Committee
December 3, 2009
Minutes**

Committee members in attendance:

Kathy Menzie (chair)
Lori Khan
Paul Byrne
Kanalís Ockree
Cal Melick
Linda Croucher
Robin Bowen (ex officio)

Kathy Menzie called the meeting to order.

Item I: The minutes

Discussion: The committee requested they be given an opportunity to review the minutes before they are sent to the Faculty Senate and, if the deadline were tight, the minutes could be sent out electronically for review and approval.

Action: Minutes from the November 11, 2009, meeting were approved as written.

Item II: Discussion of General Education Report

Discussion:

The committee discussed whether they would be ready to approve the Gen Ed Proposal as a whole or in part. The committee noted the first portion of the General Education Proposal covered items which have been discussed more broadly across campus:

- Proposal 1). General Education statement
- Proposal 2). General Education learning outcomes
- Proposal 3). Using major courses to Satisfy General Education Learning Outcomes
- Proposal 4). Courses Satisfying Learning Outcomes
- Proposal 5). General Education distribution Requirements [Breadth of Knowledge]

Dr. Bowen told the committee the faculty open forums would be held Dec 7, 8, and 9th in order to give faculty an opportunity to have input on the proposal. The committee would have an opportunity to hear faculty feedback at these forums.

Some committee members felt faculty would be hesitant to accept a proposal which was incomplete. The committee also recognized the benefits of passing some of the proposed items, such as learning outcomes, which would allow the committees to move forward on assessment.

The committee agreed clarification would be important as to what exactly was being recommended to the faculty senate for approval when a recommendation was made.

Action: The committee agreed to wait until they had further input from the faculty before making a decision.

Item III: WTE Recommendation from the WTE Subcommittee

Discussion:

Kathy Menzie had requested the number of students declaring a WTE who had not yet completed in order to determine the impact a decision would have on students. This number was initially 270, but had decreased to 160 and was still somewhat inflated. It is believed the number of students not yet completing their WTE would be considerably lower once all the students had been contacted.

A question was raised as to the cost of keeping the WTE as an option. The subcommittee said this is not known, although during the period the WTE was required, the costs had not exceeded the budgeted amount. The Board of Regents had reduced the WTE budget an additional \$300,000, and indications were the WTE could be maintained within this budget, where as it would be difficult if the WTE were required for all students.

The WTE Subcommittee said they had discussed the impact of this change from a requirement with all the WTE directors, They had indicated their programs would be impacted but could, with the exception of Community Service, continue without the WTE requirement. The subcommittee noted the Community Service division of the WTE received a larger portion of the WTE funding in comparison to the other three divisions.

Action:

The motion was made to add additional wording to the recommendation to qualify the students for who the waiver was applicable as follows:

Recommend the WTE be changed to an optional program effective Fall 2010 with waivers available for students graduating under AY 2006-2010 catalogs, who have extenuating circumstances.

A motion was made to add the original recommendation back into the subcommittee recommendation to include the WTE in the Honors Program with the following wording:

Recommend the Honors Program consider WTE as a requirement to graduate with "honors."

Both motions carried with one dissenting vote. The WTE recommendations will move forwarded to the Faculty Senate.

The meeting was concluded.

The next meeting will be scheduled after the first of the year.