MINUTES
General Education Committee
March 26, 2013
3:15-4:45pm
Alumni Gallery

Members present: John Blondell (Professor of Theatre Arts), Michelle Hardley (Registrar), Wayne Iba (Professor of Computer Science), Thomas Jayawardene (Professor of Sociology), Tatiana Nazarenko (Chair and Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness)

Absent: Debra Quast

Others present:

I. Open with Prayer

II. The minutes of the February 26, 2013 and March 5, 2013 meeting were approved.

III. IS-124 – European Culture in Film - Submission Form - Resubmitted Certification for Understanding Society
After discussion this course was approved for offering on Europe Semester 2013.

IV. What does not work in the current GE? – Finalizing the Document
The committee discussed the information gleaned from the faculty who went to the AACU GE conference. Based on the conference attendees impressions and the response in the Senate it seemed that there was little support for a whole scale revision of the GE. Without significant support from the Senate, there is little traction the GE Committee can make on some of the bigger changes we have been discussing this semester.

The provost would like to see a First Year Seminar course in the GE. His vision is that it is taught only by full time faculty and done within our existing resources.

The Senate has charged the GE Committee with addressing the question of what is wrong with the GE. In response, the GE Committee will reframe the document it has been working on to also emphasize that our GE is so large that we have no room to adopt other courses or initiatives (things like a First Year Seminar). The GE Committee will recommend to Senate that we develop a First Year Seminar Task Force with divisional representation that is charged with exploring the structure, operation and subject matter of a possible First Year Seminar course. It
may be that by pointing out the deficiencies in our GE (specific courses we cannot offer) and then developing options to strengthen those deficiencies, we can work on smaller modifications to make the GE more manageable. People might be willing to prune or streamline the GE if we show them what is possible versus only focusing on what doesn’t work.

The document and recommendations will be finalized at our next GE Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley
Registrar