Western Connecticut State University

General Education Committee

2011-2012

Members: Lourdes Cruz (CUCAS), Robin Flanagan (A&S), Xiaomei Gong (L), Ed Hagan (FYE), Fernando Jimenez (VPA), Ingrid Pruss (At Large), Charles Rocca (A&S), Leah Stambler (P), Abbey Zink (A&S Dean)

Meeting Time/Date: 11AM, March 6, 2012

Meeting Place: Higgins Hall in Room 206

IN ATTENDANCE: Charles Rocca; Robin Flanagan; Abbey Zink; Lourdes Cruz; Leah Stambler; Xiaomei Gong

1. Announcements: N/A
2. Approval of Minutes:
   a. Minutes for December- Approved Unanimously;
   b. Minutes for February - Approved (4), Abstained (1)
3. New Business: N/A
4. Old Business:
   a. Assessment of Writing:
      Dr. Rocca reported: conducting Gen Ed writing assessment will be sometime in summer. 594 essays will be pulled from 100 level courses of various subjects. 10-12 of the essays will be used for training purposes. About 20% (100) of the essays is for assessment. Four people are to do the scoring over the summer.

      Patrick Ryan, the composition coordinator will train the group of the four who are doing the grading. Patrick Ryan is getting 3 credits of workload and the scorers are getting 1 ½ credits each.

      Provost Gates will find the money. Kim will be coordinating with this.

      This is the first time for WCSU to do the assessment for Gen Ed.

   b. Development of General Education Curriculum:
      Dr. Flanagan, Chair of CUCAS announced after attending Gen Ed assessment meeting that:
      Every campus that worked took 6 months to work out Gen Ed Assessment;
      There is a need to educate faculty how learning works. Faculty members are learners too.
      All agreed that two alternate proposals are better than just voting down one curriculum proposal.
There are concerns from CUCAS about “FYE” (freshmen year experience) program.

The committee members attended all agreed upon that CUCAS is the best venue re FYE program since it has more people.

Other discussion regarding FYE was as following:

If the Gen Ed proposal goes through, FYE has to change. This has to be coordinated with community colleges. So far, 300 level community college courses have been brought in from transfers to WCSU. Dr. Rocca mentioned that there has to be articulation of Math courses with community colleges.

The Gen Ed Committee motioned to support AAC & U Leap Competency Model.

Motioned: Dean Zink
Seconded: Dr. Flanagan
Passed Unanimously.

Dr. Rocca and Dr. Flanagan are meeting with CCSU to discuss the BOR plans for general education programs at various campuses, March 7, 2012. Dr. Rocca mentioned that all state universities and community colleges should have a unified Gen Ed program.

Dr. Rocca said BOR have plan for 36 credits of Gen Ed for transfer.

Registrar Cruz mentioned that WCSU already has courses articulated with community colleges based on former Gen Ed guidelines.

When discussing on graduation rate, Dr. Rocca mentioned that graduation rate should be backed by having better increase of students learning.

Dr. Flanagan pointed out that measuring success by completion rates only destroys education quality.

Dean Zink said that there has to have standards for students leaving university with degree, courses need standards in order to demonstrate competency.

Question: How rigorous assessment of courses taught by adjuncts – is course’s outline being taught?

Meeting adjourned 11:55AM
Respectfully submitted: [March minutes recorder: Xiaomei Gong, with help of Leah]