Western Connecticut State University
General Education Committee/ 2010-2011
Minutes of September 15th Meeting

Members: Edward Hagan, Fernando Jimenez (VPA), Charles Rocca (A&S), Alba Skar (A&S), Veronica Kenausis (L), Ingrid Pruss (At Large), Abbey Zink (Dean)
Guest: Lourdes Cruz, Registrar

Meeting Time: 1:30, 9/15/10       Meeting Place: Haas Library, 2nd Floor Conference Room

1. Veronica moved to accept the April 2010 minutes. Alba seconded.

   Approval of April 2010 Minutes: 3 in favor; 4 abstentions.

2. Ed’s proposal for the First Year Program:

   Ed explained and illustrated his idea for a pilot FYE program with a clear outline and chart of his plan which he handed out to all. The plan involves 120 exploratory studies students who will take their courses in a cluster, and thereby develop a sense of belonging at the university, a relationship with their instructors, and perhaps even find a concentration. The primary purpose of this plan is to create a structure for the FYE program which has not yet existed. Ed hopes those who instruct the course will meet a number of times to plan some commonality and overlap to their courses, so students can see some relatedness among their courses, at least by comparison or contrast. After trying this pilot program for two semesters, the program will be brought back for open discussion.

   The Registrar, Lourdes, who attended our meeting, was gracious enough to be willing to undertake the manual process of not allowing students to switch sections and/or to drop without dropping out of the whole program.

   After a long discussion with many questions, we resolved that only full-time faculty would be permitted to teach in the pilot program unless a last minute emergency in scheduling takes place. We also ascertained that the departments named on the sample sheet were not the ones that would necessarily be used. All departments offering large numbers of common core courses would need to rotate equitably if the pilot were to become reality.

   Veronica made a motion to proceed with the pilot. Fernando seconded. The vote was unanimously in favor of the pilot as discussed.

3. We postponed the discussion of assessing Gen Ed objectives until our November meeting.

   Meeting Adjourned: 2:30