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CWU General Education Committee Minutes - 10/18/10

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**Central Washington University
General Education Committee
October 18, 2010
Minutes**

Present: Phil Backlund, James Beaghan, James Bisgard, Cynthia Coe, Toni Čuljak, Duane Dowd, Pamela McMullin-Messier, Sharon Rosell, Tracy Pellet, Scott Carlton and Sheryl Grunden.

Absent: None

Guests: Rodney Bransdorfer

Meeting was convened at 2:03 p.m. by acting chair Cynthia Coe.

Election of Chair(s): Discussion of what chairs duties would be. Duane nominated and Phil seconded the nomination of Toni Čuljak for chair. Motion was approved with one abstention.

Changes to the Agenda - None

Approval of Minutes for May 24, 2010 – Sharon moved to approve the May 24, 2010 meeting as presented and Duane seconded. Motion was approved.

Phil moved and James Bisgard seconded to approve the meeting dates of November 1, 15, 29, January 10, 24, February 7, 28, March 7, April 4, 18, May 2, 16 & 23 from 2-4. Motion was approved.

Rodney Bransdorfer – Rodney Bransdorfer, Faculty Senate Chair, introduced himself and indicated that he is going to first meeting of all Senate committees of the year. Rodney indicated that this year is an important year for this committee. Rodney would like to see the committee use the current draft proposal as a point of departure and work in an extended collaborative effort with administration to work on implementation issues. Tracy Pellett noted that the program as currently proposed needs to be revised in order to be implemented. CWU, coordinated by Undergraduate Studies, is starting a five year cycle of assessment of the General Education program. There a number of people who would like to see some of this data before making changes to the program. Tracy indicated that the areas that will be assessed are reading, writing, math, quantitative and information literacy.

Rodney handed out an AAUP book titled, General Education & Liberal Learning – Principles of Effective Practice by Paul L. Gaston. Toni requested that the committee read Chapter 3 Intentionality prior to the next meeting.

There were no announcements.

Tracy Pellett – Dr. Pellett indicated that the committee might want to spend some time looking at and discussing the principals in the AAUP document. Now that Student Life and Academic Affairs have merged together, the committee might want to consider having someone from Student Life, like Keith Champagne come and participate in the committee to get the student life perspective. Dr. Pellett would like to see the committee better connecting with administration so there can be buy-in at that level for proposed changes. Dr. Pellett stated that the current draft proposal will not go anywhere without administrative buy-in and approval. Some departments already offer interdisciplinary courses, so need to consider using those courses rather than developing new ones. The current proposal is course driven and not outcome based. The LEAP Initiative is currently one of the best practices across the United States. Dr. Pellett would like to see the committee looking at the potential for co-curricular and extra-curricular things that would also meet outcomes. He would like to see eliminating redundancy in the program.

Toni asked Scott what the current bottlenecks are in the General Education program. Scott indicated that the (W) courses are always a bottleneck. The other areas are Literature and the Humanities, Philosophies and Cultures of the World, Perspectives on the Cultures and Experiences of the United States and Perspectives on World Culture. The sciences have a little more flexibility so students don't experience as many bottlenecks in those categories.

Petitions/appeals (if any) – Sheryl indicated there weren't any petitions, but she had several questions. Students have been confused what the minimum grade needed for basic and breadth courses is. It is stated in the General Education program that a student must receive a C- or above in ENG 101 to take ENG 102. However, those going into teaching degrees the catalog states that a student must earn a C or higher in ENG 101 and 102 as well as one of the MATH 101, 153, 154, 164, 170 or 172 courses as a pre-requisite for an Ed major. Then it states later that No grade lower than a C in a major or minor, required English composition courses, and foundation coursework, and no grade lower than a C- in basic and breadth coursework will be accepted for certification. The committee felt it was up to Education to clarify their language to make it clearer for students to understand what the minimum grade is for basic and breadth courses to be certified in an education degree.

A student would like to use Braille for their foreign language requirement. The committee referred this to the Foreign Language department for their consideration.

The last questions deals with freshman who have already completed courses in high school that complete the basic computing requirement. This item will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.