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# CWU General Education Committee Minutes - 05/02/11

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**Central Washington University  
General Education Committee  
May 2, 2011  
Draft Minutes**

Present: Phil Backlund, James Bisgard, Cynthia Coe, Toni Čuljak, Duane Dowd, Sharon Rosell, Tracy Pellett and Sheryl Grunden

Absent: James Beaghan, David Hedrick and Scott Carlton.

Guest(s): None

Meeting was convened at 3:06 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda - None

Phil moved to approve the April 25, 2011 minutes. Sharon seconded and minutes were approved.

Petitions/appeals (if any) - None

Announcements – Janet gave the committee the Curriculum Committee deadline memo for next year as an informational item. Toni announced that the committee will go back to every other week meeting times after May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting with the President and Provost.

Gen Ed Discussion – Cindy presented her University Studies proposal. Cindy explained her meaning of academic experiential learning is training students how to think for themselves. It is students doing their own research, interdisciplinary in scope, agents in their own education and lifelong learning and citizenship. Duane indicated that some majors require that students are finished with their general education prior to being admitted to the major. If we had a Jr/Sr experiential learning course, those majors would have to change their requirements. It was suggested that this course would be a graduation requirement rather than a general education requirement. Duane indicated one barrier to really good learning experience is the September – December schedule. This is not enough time. Maybe the first year experience could be a year-long course. Make a 25 student class that stays together for the year. Could use IP grade until June, when they would receive their final grade. This course could potentially be a 16 credit course. The first-year year long course would have to be coordinated very well. It was suggested that these courses would be thematic courses, possibly during the 9-11 hours. Faculty would have to knit the essential skills into this course. They would need to create teaching terms and should have a University Studies coordinator to help find people to teach courses.

The last meeting of this academic year will be May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Next meeting May 9, 2011 w/President & Provost