General Education Committee Meeting
Minutes
September 28, 2004

1. Old minutes: approved with changes
2. A visit from Dr. Collings

The chair asked Dr. Collings to present his own thoughts on general education and general education changes that might take place on this campus. His presentation centered around the following points:

- His background at various institutions
- A case scenario of a government department in which American Government had been required and this was replaced with three courses that were not required … but electives in the program and what type of changes this precipitated.
- He considers the general education program a “liberal arts major” for everyone … it constitutes as many hours as many majors … it should be thought of as a curriculum in that way
- He discussed a conversation he had with local business people “What do we want to make sure WSC students can do when they graduate” … communicate effectively, think critically and be good citizens
- The subject of “turf” and how that can be a problem … he said he could probably offer some assurance that no tenured faculty member would loose their job over General Education reform.
- The “Freshman Course” was discussed … what doesn’t work and what might work in regard to such an experience.
- The GEC should explain the “why” of what we are doing as we go along … the general education program have built in evaluation methods and correct as needed.
- He mentioned that the Title III grant did not go through, which may have affected the GE program
- He expressed that the American Democracy Project is a good endeavor.

3. The second and third models for change …. Continue to discuss and edit.

We had very little time for this. One concern was raised regarding the number of hours in the categories and the listing of classes and hours in the 1st model. Also, timing was brought up. The meeting ended at 6:00

4. Plan for dissemination
5. Next meeting.: October 5, 4:45.
Committee Members Present
Jan Dinsmore: EDC/efl
Donovan Conley: NSS/hhps
Gwen Jensen: AHU/com
Jean Karlen: NSS/spec
John Renzelman: BST/tas
Lori Nicholson: BST/ctis
Katja Hawlitschka: AHU/langlit
Linda Christensen: AHU/mus
Marian Borgmann-Ingwersen: NSS/lsci
Jeff Bauer: NSS/mps
Judith Berry: AHU/art

absent:
Fay Jackson: EDC/sec
Patricia Arneson: BST/busecon
Sharon Thomas: NSS/hispg