Minutes of the General Education Subcommittee
October 12, 2015
LI 2250
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Present: Lawrence Bliss, Luz Calvo, Julie Glass, Zach Hallab, Yi Karnes, Rita Liberti, Sarah Nielsen, Aline Soules, Nancy Thompson, Mitchell Watnik.
Absent: Diane Satin.
Guests: Glen Perry, Margaret Rustick.

The Convener (Watnik) called the meeting to order at 2:02

1. Approval of the agenda. (Bliss/Soules/P)
2. Approval of the minutes – postponed
3. Reports (no reports)

4. Old Business:
   a. Area A and B outcomes. There was some rephrasing of the Area A outcomes. In particular, the subcommittee inserted the phrase “or American Sign Language” along with “oral communication in English”. (M Soules/S Watnik/P) to accept and move forward to CIC with Areas A and B outcomes, as revised.
   b. Writing Skills Requirement. Rustick came in and explained the current state of affairs for the Writing Skills Requirement, along with the proposal from the corresponding subcommittee. In that proposal, the subcommittee would allow disciplines to designate courses (with the approval of the Writing Skills Subcommittee) so that the instructor of the course would be able to say that a student has fulfilled the Writing Skills Requirement. She noted that the Writing Skills Test may have lower standards than the existing courses, as the WST requires students to write under time constraints and with no chance to revise. The courses are not necessarily “second-tier courses” (they don’t have to have significant writing instruction), but they must have significant writing components. As such, the grades do not indicate satisfaction of the Writing Skills Requirement. Rather, there will be a second reporting mechanism that allows for a separate evaluation regarding writing skills standing. There was confusion regarding whether the course was somehow analogous to a first or second tier course. Thompson recommended that the course be viewed as analogous to the WST, instead of the first or second tier courses, since the primary instruction is not on writing and the writing result may be a recommendation that the student take the first (or second) tier course. The discussion concluded with Rustick being invited to return after her subcommittee is seated by CIC and meets.

5. New Business.
a. Area C. The Chair provided the existing outcomes. The subcommittee separated the three subareas. Area C1 would be fine arts. Area C2 would be humanities. Area C3 will be dealt with later, perhaps using “creative expression” that was discussed last year as a partial replacement for Area F.

6. Adjournment. The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:00 due to time. The next meeting is October 19 at 4 at which point area C will continue and hopefully area D will begin.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitchell Watnik, subcommittee secretary