General Education Task Force Meeting Notes (9/18/09)

Present: Cliff Abbott, Lucy Arendt, Kevin Collins, Tim Dale, Heidi Fencl, Scott Furlong, Donna Ritch, John Stoll

1. Tim Dale, Assistant Professor of SCD, is replacing Andy Kersten while Andy is enjoying his sabbatical.

2. The Task Force reviewed the General Education Purpose and Mission that Scott distributed. Since our last meeting, descriptions were added to each bullet point.
   a. Cliff was uncomfortable with the description associated with the second bullet “In order to fully engage in an interdisciplinary,........” Cliff felt that breadth can be fulfilled with courses that are not interdisciplinary in nature. This led to a discussion regarding the breadth of a general education program and whether breadth pushes away from coherence of a general education program.
   b. The discussion concluded with a consensus that the first part of the bullet would be struck “In order to fully engage in an interdisciplinary, problem-focused educational experience” and “modes of inquiry” would be changed to “course work that is representative of different ways of thinking.”

3. Kevin expressed concerns about bullet 3 “Ensuring that all students have a minimal competency in the area of sustainability.” He felt that this was not a component of Select Mission statement which the UWGB General Education Program supports; it is something the University supports but not in a course related way (i.e., all students do not have course work in sustainability). This led to a discussion about bullet 4 “Fostering the development of an engaged........” which like sustainability is something the University supports. There was consensus among the group to collapse these into one general statement with specifics in the description (i.e., sustainability, engaged and socially responsible citizen, etc.). The group felt this was a better way of defining this principle; if the focus of the University should change in the future, this principle need not be revised.

   Scott will revise the principles and descriptions for review at the next meeting.

4. Discussions of the current General Education Program have been completed with AVD, Social Work, Business, and PEA. Discussions with other units will be scheduled.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 26 from 11:30 – 1:00 in the 1965 Room