I. Adoption of Agenda

Wiemer made a motion, seconded by Coller, to APPROVE THE AGENDA. Motion passed unanimously.

II. Announcements

A. Minutes for the February 21, 2013, meeting were approved electronically through Vibe.

III. General Education Coordinator’s Report. Kolb reported that the Task Force has had two meetings since the last GEC meeting. They are working on getting up to speed and have been talking broadly about general education. A very broad mission statement and operating statement were discussed. The Task Force looked at general education programs at 21 comparable institutions; looking at the design of those programs (e.g., hours, courses) and the different names (e.g., General Education, University Studies). He reported that 80% of those institutions have a core program and about 60% have a distributive studies model. The average general education revision was in 2010. Many of the institutions kept the courses that were already in their general education programs, but enhanced the program with programs like engaged and service learning and cocurricular programs. A number of institutions require that their general education courses be taught by tenure/tenure track faculty. Kolb reported that the Task Force has discussed doing some surveys (of faculty, students, alumni, and employers) and have asked for more data on transfer students. He obtained data from the Baccalaureate Review, and while it’s helpful, the questions had a different content. The timeline is that by the fall semester the Task Force will start looking at programs and developing models. Kolb reported that Julia Spears, Birberick, and he attended a general education workshop through the AAC&U. There are a lot of institutions that are struggling with the same general education issues as NIU. Gorman asked about the implementation of any revised general education program. Birberick responded that she and Kolb have been having those discussions. It is important to get the buy-in among all of the stakeholders as the general education program revisions are discussed. It’s important to keep getting feedback as the Task Force does their work. Once the final model is agreed upon, it will still need to go through the curricular process; GEC, CUC, curricular deans, college senates, etc. It was discussed that this needs to be a meaningful process with the end result being a quality general education program that will add value to students’ educations at NIU.
IV. **Old Business**

A. Assessment Plan. There was a very brief discussion of data being collected for assessment.

B. Submissions.

1. ARTE 109. Gorman reported that he received an e-mail from Richard Siegesmund that has satisfied the two issues the GEC had with this submission. Those issues were to be more specific on the general education goals the course will assess and to add a better rationale that doesn’t refer to another institution. This course can now be approved for the general education program.

2. Art History Courses. Gorman is expecting a response from Art History soon.

3. POLS 210. At the 11/15/12 GEC meeting, the submission for POLS 210, Introduction to Law and the Courts, was approved pending clarification of which goals are being assessed. They have since provided an updated submission. Gorman observed that this is an interesting course; law isn’t covered as a topic in the general education program. Coller noted that they need to include the fact that the course is for general education credit on the syllabus. This led to a discussion about how many syllabi for general education courses actually included that statement. Both Birberick and Morris stated that when Greg Long was the General Education Coordinator, he did a review of general education course syllabi and found that very few indicated that it was a general education course. Gorman said that when he responds to Political Science regarding this submission, he will instruct them to make that change to the syllabus. Lundstrum made a motion, seconded by Chakraborty, TO APPROVE POLS 210 FOR GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AREA. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Humanities and Arts Language Update. Birberick updated the GEC on the status of this issue. She reminded the GEC that the original language referred to the two colleges that offered courses in the Humanities and Arts section. But with the addition of two courses to the Humanities and Arts section from another college, that language had to be revised. At the request of the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Visual and Performing Arts, the GEC revisited the updated catalog language and decided to take no action at this time. After Gorman relayed this decision to those colleges, they in turn responded, copying Gorman, herself, Alan Rosenbaum (executive secretary to the University Council), and members of the University Council, appealing that the revised catalog language be rescinded on the grounds that it should have gone to the University Council as a substantive change in policy. Birberick reported that this issue will go to the Undergraduate Coordinating Council (UCC) on April 4 for reconsideration of the portion of the GEC minutes where this catalog change was approved. She was unsure if there would be representatives from the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Visual and Performing Arts at the UCC meeting. There are a couple courses of actions the UCC can take, including leaving the policy as is or sending it back to the GEC for reconsideration. But at this time, Birberick said that there is no action required of the GEC, she just was reporting on where the issue is at this time. She also asked GEC members to contact GEC’s UCC representatives, Vander Schee and Wiemer, if they had anything they wanted to share on the issue.

D. General Education Revision. See the General Education Coordinator’s report above.
V. **New Business**

A. Interim reports from Political Science. Gorman reminded the GEC that when these courses were resubmitted, they did not have assessment data, but they had a good plan for collecting those data. So the GEC gave the department until the spring 2013 semester to provide data. Discussion followed and the GEC decided that the data are there for POLS 220 and POLS 260, but not for POLS 150. It was noted that they mention the data in their resubmission and the omission of the data is probably an oversight. The department will be asked to submit the data by the end of this semester. Chakraborty made a motion, seconded by Lundstrum, TO APPROVE THE RESUBMISSIONS FOR POLS 220 AND POLS 260; AND TO APPROVE THE RESUBMISSION FOR POLS 150 PENDING RECEIPT OF ASSESSMENT DATA. **Motion passed unanimously.**

VI. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be April 18, 2013, Altgeld 225.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Smith, Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator