General Education Review Committee April 2005 draft document “Agreements Already Reached” - The following statements were made at this meeting regarding the draft document:

- Who will enforce these statements (page 2, lines 78-79)?
- Comment on the contradiction of no additional available funding combined with the great ideas organized by the General Education Review Committee members.
- Is it proven that smaller class sizes are an improvement over the current class size offerings?
- Dennis Ray stated that one outcome of the Review Committee is that the structure of the general education curriculum will remain much the same as it is currently.
- Regarding the UA South references, buried deep within these comments, that they are not viewed as a modality. Additional discussion is needed regarding the impact of UA South.
- The whole community college issue, and related references, is problematical.
- Regarding the options offered, those colleges that are most critical of the current program are those colleges that are not taking the classes as they were originally designed and intended.
- Dennis Ray discussed the review of the goals and outcomes of the Tier One courses. Regarding the variation by college on the approach of scheduling and completing general education, each college has a variation on the theory of when the courses should be taken; for some colleges the requirements are met during the first two years, and for others they are completed over four years. For those colleges that view this as a four-year approach, or as an option during the upper division course of studies, this is in direct conflict with the structure of the Tier One courses. These courses are organized and structured in a way that targets freshmen and sophomore students and when upper classmen take these same courses it leads to a much different experience. Some of the options considered and discussed at great length by the General Education Review Committee review the option of allowing flexibility within the current system. The current general spirit and integrity would be maintained but options would be considered by expanding on the current structure.
- The College of Nursing, in support of an option for variation of the standard course offerings and schedule limitations, would like to see their students allowed to focus on their major course work, and allow general education courses at variable times.
- Support of early connection between a student and their advisor in strengthening the student’s skills and leading to a greater retention rate was voiced. Concern was also voiced that items 2 and 6 may undermine the advisor/student connection.
- Regarding honors students-should their course work be segregated from that of other students to a greater extent than it is currently? It could be a mistake to create an elitist course offering. A clarification from the committee members on both committees, stated that this option is in support of honors, advanced students, transfer and upper classmen that would have an option other than that offered to incoming freshmen that would challenge them.
- Dennis Ray commented that the UWGEC “white paper” issued during the spring of 2004 was the source of some of this data. The idea behind a portion of these options offered is can we become more creative with these specific students and give them a better experience.
- Comments regarding review of all general education courses by the UWGEC, at this time, with the current makeup of the committee, stated that this isn’t realistic. A number of options were discussed to consider an approach to organize which courses to review and establish a review process. One aspect could be to cover the writing components in general education courses; another could be to ask each professor to review courses that are taught and respond with verification that they are in line with the original intent or request to modify the course formally through Form Link. Additional comments stated that at the beginning of each semester a reminder could be sent out stating the goals and how to achieve them. General agreement was in support of the statement that good courses evolve and we could find easy ways to remind faculty and students how and what general education is and should be. UWGEC is definitely the committee to do this and in effect control the process and the nature of the review.

- UWGEC is in agreement that it is the best one to do this type of review of general education courses as opposed to giving this task to another ad hoc committee. We are most familiar and experienced about these courses and the related issues. The question is how can we do this and make it a humane process?

- UWGEC would like to see a more in-depth opinion stated by the full committee regarding this draft document. This could easily be an agenda for the next full year. It needs to be studied in depth.