1. Professor Christopher Wilkinson, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:15 PM in Assembly Room A, NRCCE.

Members Present:
Almond, C.  Brown, Jo  Harris, B.  Lastinger, M.  Pearson, T.  Sherwood, L.
Always, S.  Brown, P.  Helmondollar, R.  Lewis, R.  Peri, J.  Stamatakis, M.
Ameri, S.  Bryan, W.  Hill, R.  Lively, M.  Perry, J.  Stark, L.
Atkins, C.  Buchanan, T.  Hornak, L.  Long, K.  Petronis, J.  Stolzenberg, A.
Behling, R.  Burton, J.  Hornsby, G.  Loudin, B.  Pyle, E.  Townsend, C.
Blackwood, A.  Cohen, S.  Janson, D.  McGrath, J.  Rezaei, A.  Urbanski, J.
Bowen, E.  Culberson, J.  Johnson, D.  Meit, S.  Riley, C.  Valentine, S.
Branch, D.  Famouri, P.  Kenney, B.  Napolitano, M.  Rosen, C.  Wehman, L.
Brister, C.  Fones-Wolf, E.  Kershner, R.  Nelson, C.  Ruscello, D.  Wilcox, G.
Brown, G.  Gross, S.  Kuhlman, J.  Outterson, K.  Selin, S.  Williams, J.
Brown, James  Hanson, R.  Larrabee, J.  Panaccione, D.  Sexstone, A.  Yeater, R.

Members Absent:
Bagby, M.  France, K.  Hurst, M.  McFadden, D.  Morris, T.  Stack, S.
Bendena, M.  Freeman, B.  Kolar, M.  McGinley, P.  Mulkeen, P.  Voelker, J.
Clark, K.  Gladwin, M.  Lazzell, R.  McNatt, S.  Ogershok, P.  McFadden, D.
Clark, N.  Graf, D.  Loyd, B.  Morgan, D.  Rosen, K.

2. President Hardesty addressed the Faculty Senate by saying the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools will visit WVU on April 19-21, 2004. He said a self-study has been completed, and it is in the process of being printed. The President encouraged senators to review the study from the web at: www.wvu.edu/~acadaff/api/hlc/selfstudy.pdf. He said it portrays a tremendous amount of information about WVU, and is written in a strategic way; other information is forthcoming. The President said the last visit from the Commission was in 1994, so this visit will be an important event for WVU, and the President is hopeful for another maximum period before the next accreditation visit. Securing federal funds for research and financial aid hinges on being fully accredited. The President said the Commission will site any improvements that might be useful; in 1994, they cited the limited resource base of the state as a concern. The President said other institutions are experiencing similar challengers, such as: graduate stipends, inadequate funding of libraries and facilities, inadequate indoor recreation facilities, and a high turn-over among senior administrators. He said suggestions for improvement may focus on better communication, improved evaluations of faculty and staff, and enhanced strategic planning. The President hopes the Commission will review everything from the more refined way that planning is maintained with greater focus in some of the departments to meet expressed concerns. He said three records have been set this year in private giving, research and enrollment. The review will be external and will validate accomplished work at WVU. The President acknowledged that the Provost’s Office has led the self-study and he thanked the faculty who worked on it.
3. It was moved and duly seconded to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2004, meeting. 
   Motion carried.

4. The Chair reported that he attended an ACF meeting in Charleston two weeks ago; legislative 
   items were the focus. On Friday, he received Senator Robert Plymale’s proposed revisions to 
   SB 448, which included (for the first time in state code) a clause recognizing the existence of 
   faculty senates at the state’s colleges and universities. The Chair said the report stipulates 
   matters of policies and procedures regarding the formation and conduct of senates, as well as 
   the lengths of terms senators serve. The Chair said he will send a request to Senator Plymale 
   asking that language be added to the Bill exempting “any and all faculty senates.” Chair 
   Wilkinson said that Senator Plymale was quoted as saying that he was opposed to the 
   legislature micro-managing the affairs of colleges and universities; the Chair will suggest that 
   the same standard apply regarding organization, constituencies, and specific responsibilities 
   of faculty senates.

5. Professor Garbutt, Chair, Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee, moved that the following 
   Curriculum Committee report be approved:

   Annex I, New Courses and Course. Motion carried.
   Annex II, The Alteration Report was submitted for information.

6. Chair Wilkinson said on February 23, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, unanimously 
   moved that the GEC proposal in its current, unamended form, be implemented no earlier than 
   the fall semester, 2005.

   Past Chair, Professor Stan Cohen, took the podium to lead a discussion concerning the GEC 
   proposal. He said any amendments would be voted on today, plus the implementation of the 
   proposal itself. The Senate Executive Committee will review any approved amendments at 
   its March 23rd meeting.

   Professor Cohen said that the proposal was presented to the Liberal Studies Committee for its 
   review.

   The Chair of the LSP Committee, Janis Peri, stood before the Faculty Senate and stated that 
   the Senate Executive Committee mandated that an ad hoc committee be put in place to 
   review WVU’s general education; the mandate included the following:

   1. A charge to review the LSP to determine how it is meeting current goals of 
      general education.
   2. Examine general education curricular at other research universities.
   3. Develop recommendations for changes in WVU’s general education curriculum 
      based on that review and analysis.

   Professor Peri said the GEC Ad hoc committee introduced an initial draft on September 8, 
   2003, and a revision was presented in the midst of the first comment period on October 3,
2003; the final version was released on December 5, 2003. She said during the second comment period, all e-mail communication was forwarded to the LSP Committee for information and reflection. Professor Peri said on January 23, 2004, the LSP Committee voted 8 to 1 to approve the proposal.

Professors Brown, Lastinger, and Hornak served on the LSP Committee and gave their support of the GE proposal.

Professor Stolzenberg read the following amendment, and he moved that it be implemented in the General Education proposal:

**Motion for an amendment to the proposed General Education Curriculum.**

“It is moved that Objective 2 of the General Education Curriculum be modified from its current requirement of one math/statistics course plus two courses in the natural or physical sciences (with one lab course). The amended objective would require four courses and could be satisfied in one of three ways: (a) three natural or physical science courses with at least one lab course and one mathematics or statistics course, (b) two natural or physical science courses with at least one lab and two mathematics or statistics courses, or (c) two natural or physical science courses with at least one lab, one mathematics or statistics course, and one course in the areas of natural resources and the environment. Note that the areas of natural resources and the environment could include courses that are not included among those currently considered for objective 2.

**Rationale:** The amendment focuses on increasing the science background of students whose majors do not contain required courses in science and mathematics/statistics. We believe that persons who make critical decisions in society (e.g., legislators, civic administrators, judges, lawyers) and persons who report on the issues (journalists) often do not have a significant background in these subjects. Given the issues that involve science, math and statistics (environment and health, just to name two), we believe that the foundations for all students should include a greater component in science and math/statistics than exists in the current proposal.

It has been pointed out that an average number of 7 credit hours in science/math/statistics are required by peer institutions in their general education curricula. An alternative analysis of the data indicates that an average of 1.6 math/stat courses and 2.3 science courses appear on the same general education curricula. The difference comes from the fact that math/stat/science courses at the peer institutions usually have only 3 credit hours, not the 4 or 5 credit hours that exist at WVU. The amendment above would raise the General Education requirements from a level below the average of peer institutions to a level above the average. We feel that this amendment would better serve the students at West Virginia University.”

The motion was duly seconded. **Motion carried.**

After much discussion, it was moved and duly seconded that the General Education proposal be approved as amended. The question was called, and votes were taken. The off-campus
sites called in their votes. Votes included **60 in favor of the proposal and 21 against it.**

Motion carried.

The Senate Executive Committee will discuss how to implement the wording of the amendment so it can be incorporated in the proposal. It will submit its recommendation at the April 12th Faculty Senate meeting.

7. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m. to reconvene Monday, April 12, 2004.

Mary Strife
Faculty Secretary