The meeting began at 4:00 PM. Present were Scott White, Tim Zauche, Angela Udelhofen, Kevin Haertzen, David Van Buren and Dennis Ciesielski. Also present was Sheryl Wills.

Scott White moved, with Dennis Ciesielksi as second, to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2006 meeting. The motion carried.

Tim Zauche reminded us of the task that was assigned at the last meeting. He noted that very few committee members responded and he asked us again to submit two questions to ask departments in our review of general education outcomes.

Sheryl Wills, chair of the Department of Mathematics, gave a report on the effectiveness of the math placement test. She distributed a detailed handout on the results of the placement exam. She noted the number of new freshmen who must now take one of the remedial math classes has increased from 36% in 2000 to 47% in 2005. UWP has a lower number of remedial math students than many other UW-System schools.

Wills noted a correlation seems to exist between the math score on the ACT exam and the math placement exam score. She speculated that high school students are not doing the work necessary to learn the material but still get passing grades due to extra credit. She believes it is important for students to take math during all four years of high school in order to maintain their math skills, particularly algebraic manipulation. Students who do not take math during their senior year do not practice the skills necessary to do well on the math placement exam.

The students who take remedial math on campus take it through Southwest Vocational Technical College. The SW Tech instructors do a good job of teaching and give the students individual attention. Still, 29% of the students still receive a grade of F. This is typical of math classes in general.

The math placement test is being given online for TSI students so they do not have to come to Platteville to sit for the placement exam. UWP is the only school using online testing for math placement. There are concerns that students may be cheating when they take the exam and the results of the tests are not valid.

Wills believes the high schools are not adequately preparing students for college-level mathematics due to many pressures such as No-Child-Left-Behind. High school faculty members do seem to be recognizing the problem however.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 PM.

Submitted by
Scott A. White, Secretary