I. Introduction

After a gracious welcome from Vice President MacDonald Holmes and Dean Anne Myers of SUNY Cobleskill and introductions all around, Donald Steven updated everyone on the revised agenda for the day.
II. Workshop: Discussion of SUNY Farmingdale’s General Education Plan / Dialogue with Campuses

With the permission of President Jonathan Gibralter of SUNY Farmingdale, GEAR reviewed this plan in open session, allowing for an interesting and informative dialogue about the plan and the issues it raised in general for the design of an effective plan. There was broad and enthusiastic recognition that Farmingdale’s plan was to a very high standard and that it clearly met the Guidelines established for approval by GEAR. Among its strong attributes were:

- the presentation was clear and in a format that closely tracked the eight criteria established by GEAR
- all criteria were met
- the plan delineated direct measures to assess student learning, these measures clearly had face validity and reliability, and the proposed sampling of students would be representative

The major concerns that GEAR had relate to the need to present a cycle that assesses the 12 Knowledge and Skills Areas and Competencies over three years (four per year), and the need to clarify how the infused Critical Thinking competency will be assessed. Once Farmingdale has completed the necessary revisions, GEAR will seek permission to post this plan on its Web page (http://cortland.edu/oir/gear/) so that other campuses can study it. GEAR would like to emphasize that, in doing so, it is not expecting other campuses to model their plans on Farmingdale’s plan, as each campus is unique and each plan will certainly reflect that. What GEAR hopes is that other campuses will learn by studying Farmingdale’s plan how clearly and effectively it meets the criteria in the guidelines.

III. Review of Campus Plans

In confidential session, GEAR reviewed several other campus plans that had been received and will provide a written critique to these campuses shortly.

IV. Membership

Due to professional obligations, Dr. Tom Moran, Professor of Education and Director of the Institute for Ethics in Public Life at SUNY Plattsburgh is unable to continue on GEAR. The group decided to ask Professor Melanie Vainder, Professor of English and Technical Communications, Director of General Education and Chair of the Assessment Advisory Board at SUNY Farmingdale to join the group. (Note: She has accepted.)

Due to a need to focus on her studies, Naniette Coleman, a student at the University of Buffalo, is also unable to continue. Every best wish Naniette and thanks for your contribution to this process.

V. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held at SUNY Fredonia, likely in early March. GEAR has accepted invitations to hold meetings at a number of SUNY campuses across New York. These are open meetings and invitations will be extended to campuses in the various areas to attend.

This meeting summary will be posted on GEAR’s Web page: (http://cortland.edu/oir/gear/) and sent to campus Chief Academic Officers and subscribers to the assessment listserv (ASSESS-L@ls.sysadm.suny.edu).