Meeting convened at 3:30 p.m.

**Motion:**
R. Brown asked for a motion to approve the minutes from February 26th. J. Crawford so moves. C. McCall seconds the motion. The February 26th minutes were approved as prepared.

R. Brown advised the council that David Butler has distributed information regarding the previous Physical Geography motion. R. Brown stated that the information was provided by Geography after questions were raised by council members regarding Physical Geography as a natural science course.

R. Brown advised council members that they could meet with David Butler with concerns, however the council needs one person who voted against the Physical Geography motion to change his/her vote if the issue is to be raised again.

R. Brown passed out a sign-up sheet for council members to review syllabi from departments regarding minimal course expectations. The council was given a new copy of the minimal course expectations from last fall.

R. Brown asked the council members to review the syllabi of all professors/instructors of the course of their choosing. Members should report
significant deficiencies of the syllabi directly to the faculty member of that department, or respond on the syllabi with “no concerns”.

T. Mottet asked if there was a deadline. R. Brown responded with “2 weeks”.

R. Brown also stated that the syllabi for ECO 2301 were not available yet, but he will contact Denise Smart for them. There are only a couple of classes anyway.

R. Brown also said that all syllabi are archived in binders in the University College Dean’s Office.

V. Sriraman mentioned that Math has 6 different courses. R. Brown stated that if anyone signed up to review Math, they would have to review the syllabi for all those courses.

R. Brown mentioned the pilot senior interview proposal he was working on with T. Mottet.

R. Brown mentioned that unless a council member reconsiders his/her “against” vote that Physical Geography as a natural science will not be considered this year.

R. Brown said that S. Beebe was interested in how the testing in Physical Geography addresses the science issue.

R. Brown states that there was a charge from President Supple that teaching the General Education classes be at the highest quality levels.

T. Hindson asked about viewing copies of student evaluations from General Education courses. R. Brown responded that department Chairs are responsible for assigning faculty to classes and handling evaluations.

R. Brown continued by relaying statements from President Supple:
- Students get their first experiences from the General Education classes
- President Supple wants any learning models utilized in these classes to be used in future careers
- President Supple wants courses that expose students to a body of information
- R. Brown said that the General Education courses have pushed toward critical thinking lately
- R. Brown noted the issue could be whether SWT concentrates on General Education course goals or Department/Major goals

T. Hindson asked if there is anecdotal evidence of a course(s) least desired by students.
R. Brown responded that traditionally POSI, HIST, US1100, MATH, etc. have had student dissatisfaction, some students don’t see the utility of the classes.

R. Brown stated that he sees the General Education courses at the National level of importance.

R. Brown said that some high schools are influencing students toward specialization (which may be why some students don’t see utility in some general courses).

R. Brown said it may be necessary to spend some time spelling out the philosophical rationale of General Education.

S. Day mentioned the NSSE college survey in regard to questioning whether SWT is looking for General Education courses be “engaging” to students.

R. Brown stated that the college survey is used by the legislature to compare institutions, no mention of “engagement”.

R. Brown said that President Supple has talked about “student engagement” and that departments should be making an effort to do so.

R. Brown asked if any new issues should be addressed.

The meeting concluded at 4:05 p.m.