

General Education Committee Minutes

March 4, 2003

Present: Mark Hardt
George Benedict
James Nowlin
Sande Rietz
Randall Gloege
Michael Dennis
Squy Wallace

Absent: Barbara Zuck

John Cech – *ex-officio*
George White – *ex-officio*
Janie Park – *ex-officio*
Dan Zirker – *ex-officio*
Randy Rhine – *ex-officio*
Joe Michels – *ex-officio*
Curt Kochner – *ex-officio*

Presiding: Mark Hardt, Chair

Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. in CEHS 216.

The February 25 meeting minutes were approved.

Sandie Rietz was appointed a temporary voting member.

I. Title

Several titles were proposed. It was noted that using the term *evaluation* implies that value judgements are being introduced into the situation. It was noted that *critique* has negative connotations, so evaluation may be a better term.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Squy Wallace to approve the following as the Title: *A Critical Evaluation of Human Civilization.*
 - Motion carried, 7-0.

II. Objective

The following Objective was proposed:

The objectives of Academic Foundation (General Education) are to help students develop and demonstrate an understanding of what it means to be members of the global community. Students completing Academic Foundation will reflect upon the evolution of culture, and learn to identify and value responsible roles for the human being in the physical, social, and intellectual worlds.

It was noted that this objective introduces the idea that there are moral issues here to look at, but does not tell the student what to believe.

- Motion by Sandie Rietz, seconded by Michael Dennis to accept the following as the Objective: *The objectives of Academic Foundation (General Education) are to help students develop and demonstrate an understanding of what it means to be members of the global community. Students completing Academic Foundation will reflect upon the evolution of culture, and learn to identify and value responsible roles for the human being in the physical, social, and intellectual worlds.*

- Motion carried, 7-0.

III. Definitions

It was suggested that a term other than “Election” be used. It was then noted that calling it something else would only add confusion to the document.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by James Nowlin to accept the top section of the document (Definitions) with small grammatical corrections.

- Motion carried, 7-0.

- Motion by Sandie Rietz, seconded by Michael Dennis to add the term *electives* in parentheses to the Election Section.

- Motion carried, 7-0.

IV. Structure

It was noted that we are stuck with the Board of Regents categories and requirements.

It was also noted that the Committee appreciates Michael Dennis' work writing this Mission/Object Statement.

It was cited that this document was written before the Matrix was finished, so some of the verbiage may need alteration so they match.

- Motion by Sandie Rietz, seconded by Randall Gloege to **approve the section titled Structure with changes and with the understanding that the category descriptions will be taken from the Matrix.**

- Motion carried, 7-0.

V. Categories

It was noted that previously, the Committee has voted to reduce the number of credits required in Academic Foundation (Gen Ed) to 32. It was cited that the Board of Regents requirements and an additional writing course will not fit into 32 credits.

It was also noted that the MSU-B categories and the Board of Regents categories may need to be condensed if we are going to reduce the number of courses offered in Academic Foundation (Gen Ed).

It was noted that we can go above the Board of Regents required core of 30 credits, but only 30 credits of the student's Gen Ed will transfer to another institution. The students may feel they are paying for courses they don't need.

It was then cited that we have done this out of order anyway. We should not have voted to reduce the number to 32 so early on. The number of credits needs to be re-evaluated.

It was stated that we could go back to 37 credits and create a 3 credit capstone, rather than just 1 credit.

It was also noted that although students may not like these extra courses, we have the right to tell them they have to take more than just what is required in their degree program. It was also noted that just because students think Gen Ed is a "cash-cow," does not mean this committee has to think that way.

- Motion by Michael Dennis, seconded by James Nowlin to **re-evaluate the number of credits required in Academic Foundation (Gen Ed)**.

- Motion carried, 6 for, 1 against.

It was cited that we should just use the Board of Regents category names.

It was then noted that the Cultural Diversity category has been a "slop-over" area for all kinds of courses. It was cited that currently this category is defined as any course covering a non-western culture. It was stated that this Committee will be able to define exactly which courses should be in this category. It was cited that Cultural Diversity should be dealt with as a concept, not a category. A course in Native American culture would fit well, but a course in Crow culture would not be appropriate because it does not discuss diversity of cultures.

It was noted that as we create this program, we should negotiate with other units so our courses will be accepted across Montana.

It was stated that the idea of the interdisciplinary courses must remain open.

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna