

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

November 25, 2003

Present: Mark Hardt
St. John Robinson
James Nowlin

Randall Gloege
Michael Dennis
Squy Wallace

Absent: Sandie Rietz – *ex-officio*
Dan Zirker – *ex-officio*
Randy Rhine – *ex-officio*
Joe Michels – *ex-officio*
Curt Kochner – *ex-officio*

Cathey White – *ex-officio*
John Cech – *ex-officio*
George White – *ex-officio*
Janie Park – *ex-officio*

Presiding: Mark Hardt, Chair

Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 3:44 p.m. in the Madison room of the SUB.

The minutes of November 4 were accepted as presented.

I. New Business

It was noted that the committee is trying to take the politics out of this revision process. It was cited that promoting all the Gen Ed courses as a package is going to be the best option.

It was noted in the meeting with the Math Department (11/5/03) that the department seemed supportive of offering just two Gen Ed courses, making their staffing efforts much simpler. They would not have to offer so many courses for Gen Ed.

It was stated that the Gen Ed Committee should send out a memo to all faculty describing the purpose of the Committee, the goals, how the process will work for Academic Foundations/Gen Ed courses, and alleviate general worries of the faculty.

It was noted that at Bozeman, which is also revising their Gen Ed program, the faculty are being paid for developing new Gen Ed courses. This committee should advocate faculty development through this revision process. We can't do this for free.

II. Summary – Meeting with Dr. Park

It was noted that Dr. Park said that there is a problem with funding the Gen Ed program, but that is all. If the timing is right, a coordinator may be hired, assuming there is enough funding.

III. Begin Defining Gen Ed Categories

It was noted that the descriptions in the catalog don't really apply to what the committee is now doing. They are also too specific, referencing individual disciplines. The descriptions need to be more generalized. It was noted that a narrative seems to be the best way to go, rather than bullets.

It was decided that the best format would be a statement about what the category is all about, followed by specifics about what the student will do with no direct references to courses or disciplines. A similar length for each category is also important.

It was noted that following all the descriptions in the catalog, there should be a concluding statement emphasizing that students are to explore and synthesize what they learn in Academic Foundations.

IV. Double Counting

- Motion by Michael Dennis, seconded by Randall Gloege to reaffirm that all courses in Gen Ed are designed for Gen Ed and that they cannot be counted in both Gen Ed and the student's major.
- Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna