

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

January 27, 2010

Present: George Czyz
Melinda Tilton
Mike Havens
Tom Regele
Neil Jussila
Michael Scarlett
Brent Roberts
Stephanie Haynie (student)
Tasneem Khaleel (ex-officio)

Bernie Quetchenbach
Neil Suits
Matt Redinger
Mark Fenderson
Kathe Gabel
Richard Pierce
Chase Slade (student)
Rita Kratky (ex-officio)

Absent: Kurt Toenjes – *excused*

Presiding: Matt Redinger, Chairperson

Matt Redinger called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. in the Missouri room.

The minutes of December 9 were accepted as presented.

I. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Update: General Education Course Outcomes

Information Technology pointed out that many of the outcomes in the current system are identical. They need to be differentiated and unique to each category. If the GEC can finish with the simplified outcomes this week, IT should be able to have them ready to go for this semester. With that in mind, Dr. Redinger added some text to the revised outcomes to make them category-specific. It was agreed that some outcomes will need to be revised. Please get any corrections to Dr. Redinger this week.

It was noted that for the broad categories Cultural Diversity and Social Sciences it has been very difficult to get a consensus on the outcomes. We will have to go with what we've got. It was cited that once we move to the MAP test, which is required as part of our membership in VSA (Voluntary System of Accountability), this assessment system will go away. These revised outcomes are an improvement on what we have now, and hopefully we will not have to use them for long.

B. General Education Course Proposal Form Review

It was agreed that the new outcomes will be used in place of the matrix in the form—and only the three outcomes for the intended category will be completed, not the entire matrix. The rest of the form will remain the same.

C. COMPASS Scores Guide for Advising Center: Update

Rita Kratky, Director of the Advising Center, stated the guide will be useful for advisors. It was noted that if there is not a particular course or COMPASS score but merely a recommendation for a course, that can go in the comments section of the guide. This would be useful for courses with heavy reading or other components. Any additions to the guide can be sent to Dr. Redinger.

D. Assessment Data: Fall 2007 to Spring 2009

The list of faculty who have not entered their Fall 2009 data was distributed. The Committee is beyond hounding people on this.

Data from Fall 2007, Spring 2008, Fall 2008, and Spring 2009 was also distributed. It was noted that a category of courses cannot be compared from one semester to the next. It is most likely not even the same course being offered. To get meaningful data, we need to compare one course across multiple semesters.

Dr. Redinger attended a retreat over the break, wherein the Provost noted she was hoping to use Fall data to implement changes in Spring courses. That is simply not workable. We are looking for long-term trends. It was further noted that the idea of CQI (continuous quality improvement) cannot really be applied to General Education because we are an open enrollment university. Our incoming students vary widely in their abilities.

It was cited that using the data to give feedback to faculty is mostly useless. Faculty members are the ones who entered the data; they know what it says. However, we still have to report something about this data to NWCCU. It was noted that we have to report that we know our assessment was unwieldy and we are working to simplify it. The data we have is difficult to interpret, and we need to get more data. We also don't want to make changes in courses based on false data interpretations.

It was stated that when we get the MAP test, we will be able to insert Gen Ed related questions. If we plan to use the MAP test as our only Gen Ed assessment in the future, we should request a status update from the Provost. It was noted that a bid process may have to be used because the VSA tests are very expensive. The question was raised as to how the MAP test works. It was responded that students will take the test as incoming freshmen, and then MSUB will have to devise a method to get all seniors to take another test.

It was noted that there is a correlation between students doing well in Gen Ed courses and retention of those students. It was noted that most of our students with GPAs good enough to return from semester to semester will leave for financial or personal reasons.

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.