

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

March 23, 2004

Present:	Mark Hardt Connie Landis James Nowlin	Randall Gloege Michael Dennis Squy Wallace
Absent:	Sandie Rietz – <i>ex-officio</i> Cathey White – <i>ex-officio</i> Tasneem Khaleel – <i>ex-officio</i> George White – <i>ex-officio</i> Carl Hanson – <i>ex-officio</i> Curt Kochner – <i>ex-officio</i>	John Cech – <i>ex-officio</i> Randy Rhine – <i>ex-officio</i> Joe Michels – <i>ex-officio</i> Janie Park – <i>ex-officio</i>
Guest:	Susan Gilbertz	
Presiding:	Mark Hardt, Chair	

Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 3:58 p.m. in the Lewis & Clark room of the SUB.

The minutes of March 16 were accepted as presented.

I. Environmental Studies Program

Susan Gilbertz stated that since the Environmental Studies program depends largely on the kindness of other departments, it may be heavily impacted by the modification of general education. She noted that if the program loses some key courses because other departments don't submit them for Academic Foundations, credits will have to be pulled from the electives—enough, in fact, so that students in the program could not have a minor. This could prove bad for their career opportunities.

It was noted that Environmental Studies is really the only interdisciplinary program on campus, and may require some special attention. Other programs can't really use the same reason for special allowance.

It was cited that the Committee will have to wait and see what the submissions are from the various departments concerned, and if a special substitution is required it will have to be written into the catalog. It cannot be just an "understanding."

II. Review of Senate Meeting with Chairs: Communication and Technology

It was noted that the Skills category should not be a place to just dump things that don't fit elsewhere. With only six credits in that category and too many courses, the students could actually finish the Academic Foundations program having never taken composition or math.

It was noted that it's really too late for major change to the structure of Academic Foundations. The six credits of electives can be used for the technology and communication needs of the students. It was cited that the electives were put in to hold a spot for the capstone course, not as a permanent fixture in the Academic Foundations structure.

It was noted that many faculty have taken issue with the Committee putting themselves "above" the UCC. It was stated that the UCC still reviews all course and program submissions. The General Education Committee is a sub-part of the UCC, only reviewing Academic Foundations course submissions and still subject to the Academic Senate's approval.

III. Composition Courses

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by James Nowlin to include at least two writing courses under the Global Academic Skills category in Academic Foundations.

It was noted that this motion implies that there will be nine credits in the Global Academic Skills category: six credits in composition and three credits in math.

It was noted that as the structure is now (6 credits in Global Academic Skills) will push ENGL 150 out of general education and make it a prerequisite to whatever composition course goes in Global Academic Skills. This could make the quality of ENGL 150, which is already questionable, grow even worse.

It was noted that if ENGL 150 is included in Academic Foundations, we could then assess it and show that there are problems that needs fixing. We would have data to support change. It was cited that in reality, it is not the General Education Committee's job to fix the problems with ENGL 150.

- Motion failed: 2 for, 3 against

IV. Conflict of Interest

- Motion by Michael Dennis, seconded by James Nowlin that Committee members are prohibited from voting on courses from the department in which they reside.

- Motion carried.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by James Nowlin that Committee members are prohibited from voting on issues where they perceive a substantial conflict of interest.

- Motion carried.

It was noted that there is an Arts and Sciences Chairs meeting this Friday (March 26). Someone from the Committee should ask to attend in order to disperse some of the misinformation that has been circulating.

It was noted that the Committee recognizes the importance of composition skills and the difficulties the entire University experiences with teaching writing.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.