

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

September 23, 2003

Present:	Mark Hardt St. John Robinson James Nowlin Cathey White – <i>ex-officio</i>	Randall Gloege Michael Dennis Squy Wallace
Absent:	Dan Zirker – <i>ex-officio</i> Randy Rhine – <i>ex-officio</i> Joe Michels – <i>ex-officio</i> Curt Kochner – <i>ex-officio</i>	John Cech – <i>ex-officio</i> George White – <i>ex-officio</i> Janie Park – <i>ex-officio</i>
Guest:	Gary Acton	Sandie Rietz
Presiding:	Mark Hardt, Chair	

Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m. in the Library 3rd floor Conference Room.

The September 16 meeting minutes were accepted as presented.

I. Meeting with English & Philosophy

Gary Acton, Chair of the English and Philosophy Department, stated that taking ENGL 150 out of Gen Ed will make the course remedial, according to the Board of Regents, and will make it a hidden prerequisite for ENGL 226 (or another upper-level writing course). Dr. Acton also noted that currently, about 45% of incoming freshmen are testing into ENGL 100. Only about 6% of those test out of 100 to take ENGL 150.

Dr. Acton stated that the change to one writing class seemed like arbitrarily reducing the number of credits in Gen Ed. It was stated that arbitrarily reducing the number of credits was not the intent of the proposal. It was to strengthen the program, raising its quality.

The intent was not to make ENGL 150 a remedial course, but was cited that according to the BOR, it *would become* remedial. If the course does become remedial, it will no longer be controlled by the Department of English & Philosophy, and would be taught entirely by part-time faculty. The move of ENGL 150 may be a good idea, but that is not how things work in the real world.

It was cited that the creation of the Academic Support Center and moving ENGL 100 to the Academic Support Center were both supposed to increase retention. It was noted that in our retention data, increases or decreases cannot be linked to any one variable.

It was stated that Deb Schaffer is organizing a meeting of all the instructors of ENGL 150. This meeting is to look at content and requirements of students to ensure consistency among the sections of 150.

It was also noted that, according to the Gen Ed Committee's timeline, all courses have to be re-submitted to Gen Ed/Academic Foundations anyway. The course or courses in the categories will be decided at that time, and should not be decided on before that point.

It was cited that once the English people teach the freshmen writing courses, the writing process must be carried on in other upper-level courses as well.

It was cited that some information from last week was in error or missing. First, it was cited that there is a standardized test for entry into either ENGL 100 or 150. It is an ACT/Compass test, and about half of the students test into 150, while the other half test into 100. Second, Deb Schaffer is coordinating all the 150 course instructors to get them all on the same page. Third, in an earlier incarnation of the Gen Ed Committee, it was established that there should be no hidden prerequisites except for remedial courses as prerequisites.

It was cited that the Gen Ed Committee should maintain a dialog with Deb Schaffer's group so as to discuss quality issues.

It was stated that if we move ENGL 150 out of Gen Ed, we *will* have the course we fear we have now. The vote taken last week was premature.

II. Timeline

It was stated that this fall the committee will be meeting with departments to discuss any changes necessary for the structure of Academic Foundations. Then next fall (Fall 2004) the committee will begin receiving submissions (courses) for the categories/structure established this year.

It was noted that the vote taken last week can be changed.

III. Letter from the Provost

It was noted that Provost Park would like the committee to draft a letter, since the first one was deemed inadequate. Provost Park requested that Keith Edgerton, Chair of the Academic Senate, sign off on it as well. The committee will work up a letter via email.

Next week the committee meets with the Mathematics Department to discuss the possible remedial nature of some of their courses.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna