

**Academic Foundations Committee  
Minutes**

October 12, 2004

<b>Present:</b>	Mark Hardt Connie Landis Noreen Lee Barb Pedula Amanda Mears – <i>ex-officio</i>	Randall Gloege Susan Gilbertz Abbas Heiat  James Ryan – <i>ex-officio</i>
<b>Absent:</b>	James Nowlin – <i>excused</i>  Carl Hanson – <i>ex-officio</i> John Cech – <i>ex-officio</i> George White – <i>ex-officio</i> Janie Park – <i>ex-officio</i>	Tasneem Khaleel – <i>ex-officio</i> Randy Rhine – <i>ex-officio</i> Joe Michels – <i>ex-officio</i> Curt Kochner – <i>ex-officio</i>
<b>Presiding:</b>	Mark Hardt, Chair	

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Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 3:50 p.m. in the Madison room of the SUB.

The minutes of October 5 were accepted as presented.

I. New Membership Needed

Susan Gilbertz was invited to the Committee to represent the area of History and Cultural Diversity, and she accepted.

Some faculty members will be contacted about the still-open position for Natural Sciences.

II. Discussion/Action Items

A. Guideline Sheet

It was noted that faculty have requested a concrete, practical set of guidelines for departments to use in designing Academic Foundations courses. They need to know what kinds of courses may fit in what areas, and how many courses they may want to submit.

It was decided the Committee should put together a one-page outline of what the Committee wants from the departments.

B. Clarification of Original Proposal

It was noted that the electives are not clearly explained. Also, are we going to have a separate list of elective courses? Those need to be defined as well.

It was noted that we cannot prohibit ENGL 150 from being submitted, and it may be included in the final package. Dr. Park has stated that she will not approve a program that has a hidden prerequisite.

It was stated that the Committee should lobby for raising the standard for getting into ENGL 150. The students take a standardized placement test, and it seems as though too many students are getting into 150 when they should really be in ENGL 100.

It was observed that the Committee will have to explain every decision it makes about this package. We need solid reasoning for including or not including courses.

It was noted that what goes in each category should not be left to the Colleges, but each College can certainly work out a package of courses they wish to submit. The important thing is not to limit themselves.

It was stated that double counting should not really be a concern of this Committee. What does it matter how the student uses his or her credits, just so long as they fulfill all the correct requirements to get a degree? Counting and assigning credits should be left up to the faculty advisor and/or department.

It was cited that we don't want major-specific courses in Academic Foundations. The courses in Academic Foundations are to be general, so all students can take them. This could also encourage students to broaden their horizons and take something that is not in their major.

It was noted that these general courses could end up being watered-down versions of the earlier course. That could result in transfer problems and quality issues.

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.