

**Academic Foundations Committee
Minutes**

December 7, 2004

Present:	Randall Gloege Susan Gilbertz Abbas Heiat Lewis Rife (student)	Connie Landis Stan Wiatr Barb Pedula
Absent:	Noreen Lee Mark Hardt – <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>	James Nowlin Amanda Mears (student) Tasneem Khaleel – <i>ex-officio</i> Randy Rhine – <i>ex-officio</i> Joe Michels – <i>ex-officio</i> Curt Kochner – <i>ex-officio</i>
Guest:	Brent Roberts	
Presiding:	Barb Pedula	

Barb Pedula called the meeting to order at 3:51 p.m. in the Madison room of the SUB.

The minutes of November 30 were accepted as presented.

The Committee welcomed Stan Wiatr as the Sciences representative, and thanked him for his service.

I. Discussion/Action Items

A. Results from Academic Senate Report on December 2, 2004

It was noted at the Senate meeting there was concern that 30-40 courses is not enough for Academic Foundations. This gave rise to the idea of larger sections of fewer courses taught by existing faculty. Also, a clear definition of Information Literacy needs to be presented.

It was observed that the Committee should encourage small section sizes, unless the Department is comfortable with larger classes.

- Motion by Susan Gilbertz, seconded by Abbas Heiat to **recommend that classes be kept at the lowest possible practical maximum size.**

- Motion carried.

It was stated that the debate about a Communication Category has resulted in a weird situation where the Communication & Theatre Department is not concerned with having a

communication category in Academic Foundations, but many other departments are. The Communication & Theatre Department is not concerned with Academic Foundations because they think the programs that want/need a communication course will put one in their majors.

The Information Literacy course could, as its third credit, have students do a presentation and that would be the communication component.

- Motion by Connie Landis, seconded by Susan Gilbertz to **change the first sentence of the Global Academic Skills Category** (page 9 of the Academic Foundations Document) from *The ability to read, write, and calculate are fundamental and necessary human skills* to *The ability to read, write, calculate, and assess sources of information are fundamental and necessary human skills.*

- Motion carried.

It was noted that 30-40 courses (6-8 per category) has been cited as too low.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Susan Gilbertz to **set a range of 60 to 80 course submissions in Academic Foundations.**

- Motion carried.

The Committee agreed that since the categories have different numbers of credits required, Colleges should not be given a limit to how many courses they will submit. The only limit will be the maximum of 80 course submissions, which would reduce the offerings by one third. It was noted that Colleges should give a prioritized list of submissions. These changes were reflected in the presentation document for Thursday's Senate meeting.

B. Additional Revision of Academic Foundations Proposal: Remove Upper Division Credits?

It was cited that references to upper division courses should have been removed with the Minor in University Studies.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Susan Gilbertz to **remove the paragraph on upper division courses from the Academic Foundations Document** (page 4, point number 6 under Categorization).

- Motion carried with 1 opposed.

The Committee agreed not to meet next week during finals, so the next meeting will be January 25, 2005.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.