

**Academic Foundations Committee  
Minutes**

September 21, 2004

<b>Present:</b>	Mark Hardt Connie Landis James Nowlin Barb Pedula	Randall Gloege Michael Dennis Abbas Heiat Sandie Rietz – <i>ex-officio</i>
<b>Absent:</b>	Noreen Lee – <i>excused</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>	Tasneem Khaleel – <i>ex-officio</i> George White – <i>ex-officio</i> Carl Hanson – <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 3:45 p.m. in McDonald Hall.

The minutes of September 14 were accepted as presented.

I. Discussion/Action Items

A. September 16 Senate Meeting

It was cited that if we have two whole years before the Academic Foundations program is implemented, there is plenty of time to undermine the whole program, losing all the good work that has been done in favor of the status quo.

It was noted that in the memo that Dr. Edgerton, Chair of the Senate, sent out last week, departments “have the option of submitting courses at any time before or after the deadline for inclusion” (the deadline will be near the end of 2004). This, in effect, makes it a “non-deadline.” The Senate had discussed setting a firm deadline. It was noted that this can be changed at the next Senate meeting on September 30.

B. Remaining Meetings with Departments

It was noted that the English and Philosophy Department wants to meet with the Academic Foundations Committee the first week of October. The Music Department has a meeting scheduled for September 29 at 3:00 pm to meet with the Committee.

C. Recruit New Committee Member: History and Cultural Diversity

It was noted that this is not only the History Department, but anyone that could have a course in this category. Some faculty members will be approached about this position.

#### D. Election of Chair and Chair Alternate

This will be postponed until after the Committee reports to the Senate on September 30.

#### E. Deadlines

It was noted that the Senate rejected the deadlines the Committee had proposed for this semester and declared that implementation would be put off until the 2007-2009 undergraduate catalog (Fall 2006). The Senate asked for a deadline at the end of Fall 2004 or Spring 2005. It was noted that no matter how much time is given between now and the deadline, there will still be a mad rush to get the proposals done.

It was noted that people in departments should get together (not individual faculty) to propose some meaningful courses for Academic Foundations.

It was noted that the end of this semester (Fall 2004) might work well: December 10, which is the Friday before finals week.

- Motion by Connie Landis, seconded by Michael Dennis that the deadline to propose to the Academic Senate will be December 10 for course submissions to Academic Foundations.

- Motion carried.

It was noted that the Committee wants to encourage interdisciplinary courses, but the administration has never really figured out an acceptable way to split the FTE for such a course. It was cited that if there was funding for some faculty training on interdisciplinary courses, they might be easier to create. The Commissioner of Higher Education often has funding for such projects.

It was noted that if the package is finished and ready for the catalog by the end of Spring 2005, that will leave a whole year that it is just sitting. We should express our concerns to the Senate about unwarranted changes to the package. This could prevent further undermining of the program.

- Motion by Barb Pedula, seconded by Connie Landis that the Academic Foundations Committee set March 28, 2005 as their best intended date for the Academic Foundations package to be completed and ready for submittal to the Academic Senate.

- Motion carried.

F. Assessment Issues

The Committee noted that there are currently two forms of assessment: the faculty self-study, where the faculty member matches assignments to outcomes listed in the matrix and a student survey, where the student agrees or disagrees that the outcomes for the course were met. It was noted that the Committee should report to the Senate that we have a faculty and a student form and are discussing assessment options.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.