

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

April 20, 2004

Present:	Mark Hardt Michael Dennis Amanda Mears (student)	Randall Gloege James Nowlin Connie Summers (student)
Absent:	Connie Landis 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>	Squy Wallace – <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>
Presiding:	Mark Hardt, Chair	

Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. in the Lewis & Clark room of the SUB.

The minutes of April 13 were accepted as presented.

I. Discussion/Action Items

A. Six Credits of Electives – Move to Categories

It was noted that the Committee has voted on very little. Most of the decisions were made through discussion and agreement. We are not talking like a unified Committee.

It was noted that at the General Faculty Meeting there seemed to be some confusion about the six credits of electives—what they are and where they can be used—so perhaps folding those credits into a category or categories would clear things up. That will still “save” them for the capstone course when the Committee gets to that.

It was noted that the 31 credits is the bare basics required by the Board of Regents. The six credits of electives gives departments the flexibility to require different Gen Eds/Academic Foundations according to their program needs. Also, removing those six credits takes away the opportunity to take some upper division Academic Foundations courses.

It was noted it’s hard to take some of the upper division courses now, because there are so many courses in Gen Ed that the upper division ones get offered once a year or on alternating years. With a smaller list of courses, the courses will have to be offered more often.

It was noted that we have to encourage students to finish their Academic Foundations in their first two years. Putting off those foundational courses until their senior year does not work out well.

It was noted that there have been many complaints about students literally “losing” their first year because they were advised to take the wrong classes. Perhaps some training of advisors in the new Academic Foundations structure will be necessary. It was noted that the Academic Senate may want to take up the issue of advising next year.

It was noted that it is not specified in the proposal that the first 31 credits of Academic Foundations are 100 and 200 level only. Upper division courses will only count for those 6 credits above 31 and for the proposed minor. However, students can take 100 and 200 level courses for the 6 credits of electives if they want. The first 31 credits would also be transferable in Montana.

- Motion by Michael Dennis, seconded by James Nowlin to retain the package with six unbound credits unattached to a category.

- Motion carried: 3 for, 1 against, 1 abstention

B. WR Course Designations

It was noted that one way to get more writing into Academic Foundations (and the whole University) is to put some teeth into the WR designation, requiring what the catalog says about a more intense writing course. There is a requirement that students take at least one WR course, but it is not enforced at all.

C. Preliminary Timeline for Fall

Assuming that the proposal is passed by the Academic Senate this Thursday (April 22), we have to get this in the catalog and running by the end of the fall semester. We also have to do something evaluative for Northwest.

It was cited that the courses could be submitted and the program running in fall semester, and the committee tackle the evaluation component for Northwest afterward.

It was noted that in order to make the Senate deadline for the catalog (November 18), the Committee has to have the course proposals from the UCC by the last week of October.

D. General Education Committee Bylaws Revision

If the proposal is passed by the Senate, the Committee’s name should be changed to the Academic Foundations Committee. It will also be recommended to the Senate that the membership be expanded. It was noted that Arts and Sciences should have a majority since the program is almost entirely in that college.

- Motion by James Nowlin, seconded by Michael Dennis to change the voting membership of the Gen Ed Committee to: 5 faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences, 2 faculty at-large, and 2 students.

- Motion failed: 2 for, 3 against

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Connie Summers to change the voting membership of the Gen Ed Committee to: 5 faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences, 1 faculty from the College of Business, 1 faculty from the College of Technology, 1 faculty from the College of Allied Health Professions, 1 faculty from the College of Education, and 2 students.

- Motion carried: 3 for, 2 against

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.