

**Academic Foundations Committee
Minutes**

February 28, 2006

Present:	Randall Gloege Mark Hardt Connie Landis Janii Pedersen (student)	Dan Gretch Susan Gilbertz Lewis Rife (student)
Absent:	Sandie Rietz – <i>excused</i> Bruce Brumley – <i>excused</i> David Garloff – ex-officio John Cech – ex-officio Mary Susan Fishbaugh – ex-officio George White – ex-officio	Abbas Heiat – <i>excused</i> Tasneem Khaleel – ex-officio Kirk Lacy – ex-officio Mary McNally – ex-officio Curt Kochner – ex-officio
Guests:	Brent Roberts	Dan Gross
Presiding:	Mark Hardt, Chair	

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

The minutes of February 21 were accepted as presented.

I. Discussion/Action Items

A. Assessment Strategies

Susan Gilbertz – Bozeman assessment with steering committees
(see attachment to minutes)

Dr. Gilbertz said she had another meeting to go to, so the Committee moved her presentation to the beginning of the agenda.

Dr. Gilbertz stated that this assessment strategy uses steering committees made up of faculty for each area/category of Academic Foundations. Those steering committees are to design a set of questions that are to ask students not what they liked about the courses, but what they learned. This strategy is similar to embedded, but it is not linked to the student's grade. The questions are written in a way so that the answers are useful to the instructors—applied questions rather than a survey. It was noted that this sort of assessment does not assess the whole program, but one could assume that if the categories are working, the whole program is working.

It was noted that what NWCCU wants is an assessment that leads to adjustment in the courses taught. They don't care how it's done or what the results are, just that the results lead to change.

Dr. Gilbertz noted that these surveys could be linked to the student's grade, as in embedded assessment. Also, Bozeman reviews every course on a staggered six-year cycle.

II. Second Reading of All Submissions from Spring 2006

Item 57.a AF Course: LS 125 Research in the Information Age for Cat. I.C. Information Literacy

Item 58.a AF Course: MIS 150 Information Access and Organization for Cat. I. Global Academic Skills C. Information Literacy

Item 59 AF Course: COMT 130 Introduction to Public Speaking for Cat. I. Global Academic Skills C. Information Literacy

Item 47 AF Course: BUS 101 Introduction to Business for Cat. III. Social Sciences

Item 47.a REVISED AF Course: FIN 205 Financial Planning for Everyone for Cat. III. Social Sciences

Item 47.b AF Course: ECON 200 Principles of Microeconomics for Cat. III. Social Sciences

Item 47.c AF Course: ECON 201 Principles of Macroeconomics for Cat. III. Social Sciences

Item 59.a AF Course: COMT 110 Interpersonal Communication for Cat. III. Social Sciences

Item 43 AF Course: DSGN 248 Computer Presentation and Animations for Cat. V. Arts and Humanities A. Arts

Item 56 Resubmitted AF Course: HON 181 The Ancient and Medieval Worlds for Cat. V. Arts and Humanities A. Arts

Item 59.b AF Course: COMT 150 Introduction to Theatre and Performance for Cat. V. Arts and Humanities A. Arts

Item 59.c AF Course: COMT 250 Introduction to Acting for Cat. V. Arts and Humanities A. Arts

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Connie Landis to approve Items 57.a and 58.a on second reading.

It was noted that there still might be issues with the College of Business being able to handle a large number of students taking MIS 150. Also, the course is not required in any COB program.

- Motion carried.

- Motion by Dan Gretch, seconded by Janii Pedersen to approve Item 59 on second reading.

- Motion carried with 2 abstentions.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Lewis Rife to approve Item 47 on second reading.

- Motion carried.

- Motion by Lewis Rife, seconded by Randall Gloege to approve Items 47.b, 47.c, and 59.a on second reading.

- Motion carried.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Lewis Rife to approve Item 43 on second reading.

It was noted that there is only one person at the College of Technology to teach DSGN 248, so it can only be offered once a semester. It was noted that the Committee can approve the course in the hope that staffing will work itself out over time.

- Motion carried with one abstention.

The Committee agreed that the remaining proposals (Items 47.a, 56, 59.b and 59.c) should be further reviewed by Committee members before the items are passed on second reading.

I. Discussion/Action Items

A. Assessment Strategies

Randall Gloege & Lewis Rife – capstone
(see attachment to minutes)

Dr. Gloege presented the possibilities for a capstone course. He noted that “portfolio” in his case is meant as a review of projects and papers the student has already done (similar to the senior portfolio English course), not the complex process used in the College of Education. Dr. Gloege stated that his recommendation is that we do not use a capstone, because there is neither funding nor faculty time to make it work.

Connie Landis – alumni survey
(see attachment to minutes)

Dr. Landis noted that the survey doesn’t really assess anything that will help instructors. It was cited that this is a “feel-good” survey with data that cannot be quantified. Dr. Landis stated it’s very possible that very few surveys will be returned, and therefore the data from such a survey would not be reliable.

It was noted that a survey like this might be useful in appraising employer satisfaction with our graduates. Dr. Landis said she would revise her report to include employer surveys.

B. Assessment Strategies Discussion

It was noted that any set of questions or test will eventually lead to students working toward that document. They will produce projects that fit the assessment, or learn just what is on the assessment questionnaire. The same situation is happening now in K-12 schools as a result of the No Child Left Behind Act.

The Committee agreed that with only two meetings left before the report date to Senate (March 23) and no finalized meeting with the Provost, the AFC should ask for a one-week extension from the Senate.

It was also agreed that one-page summaries of each assessment strategy will be needed for the meeting with the Provost.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.