

**Academic Foundations Committee
Minutes**

April 25, 2006

Present:	Dan Gretch Connie Landis Randall Gloege	Mark Hardt Abbas Heiat
Absent:	Lewis Rife (student) 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	Janii Pedersen (student) Susan Gilbertz – <i>excused</i> Tasneem Khaleel – ex-officio Kirk Lacy – ex-officio Mary McNally – ex-officio Curt Kochner – ex-officio
Guest:	Brent Roberts	
Presiding:	Mark Hardt, Chair	

Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 3:43 p.m. in the 8th Floor Faculty Lounge of the Liberal Arts Building

The minutes of April 18 were accepted as presented.

I. Discussion/Action Items

A. Draft for Provost: What is Academic Foundations?

The Committee agreed to forward the following to the Provost:

*The purpose of Academic Foundations is to ensure that students are exposed to the breadth of knowledge across the diversity of human intellectual pursuits. Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of humanity and what it means to be members of the global community. **Students completing Academic Foundations will reflect upon the evolution of culture, and learn to identify and value responsible roles for the human being in the physical, social, and intellectual worlds.***

These goals are accomplished through coursework in five foundational categories. The coursework will address essential components of human development:

- 1. The development and application of skills*
- 2. Cultural development*
- 3. Intellectual growth and development*

Academic Foundations is structured to help students progress beyond the ability to recall factual information and learn to interpret, apply, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate knowledge.

The Committee agreed that if the Provost wants a single sentence, the bolded sentence could be used.

B. Year-End Report to Academic Senate

It was noted that the Committee should forward the following:

Fall 2005

1. Evaluated course proposals and met with departments

Spring 2006

1. Finalized approved course list (evaluated resubmitted course proposals and met with departments)
2. Began groundwork on embedded assessment
3. Met with Provost White regarding assessment
4. Received implied endorsement of embedded assessment from Senate through pilot program

The report should also note that the Committee is looking forward to modified or new charges from the Senate and an expanded pilot project in Spring 2007. We should also include the request for formation of the councils in the report.

C. Draft Letter to All Faculty to be Sent by Academic Senate

It was cited that the letter to faculty should be sent before the end of this year because the volunteers will need to attend the “working lunch” this fall. We will need at least one person from each rubric (not just each category) in Academic Foundations to attend the luncheon. This will be the launching point for the pilot. The volunteers at the luncheon will pull the most important matrix points to begin the process. Then their charge for Fall 2006 semester will be to go back to the faculty in their categories (the councils) and create an assessment tool.

It was noted that the request to be part of the “Back to School” conference should go to the Provost first, before the request for faculty volunteers is sent. It was observed that the Provost will need to be provided with the following informal timeline:

- Fall—working luncheon: who will be there
- Fall—create embedded assessment tool
- Spring—begin assessing

D. BOR General Education Core Request

It was noted that Dean Khaleel is on the BOR subcommittee on the general education core and they needs a list of MSU-Billings’ Academic Foundations courses, the outcomes, and assessment.

It was noted that the BOR subcommittee has decided, at least for now, to not usurp the cultural diversity category with an Indian Education for All requirement. Currently, there is not an Indian Education for All requirement in the BOR core. However, if a requirement is added to cultural diversity, the BOR may have to increase their minimum core credits from 30 to 33.

E. Election of AFC Officers for 2006-2007

- Connie Landis nominated and Abbas Heiat seconded Mark Hardt as chair for 2006-2007.
- Dr. Hardt was elected by acclamation.
- Dan Gretch nominated and Abbas Heiat seconded Connie Landis as vice chair for 2006-2007.
- Dr. Landis was elected by acclamation.

The Committee also thanked Randall Gloege for his many years of service to this committee, and wished him well on his retirement. His institutional memory and political guidance will be missed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.