

**Academic Foundations Committee
Minutes**

September 26, 2006

Present:	Oliver Chen James Ellis (student) George White – ex-officio	Mark Hardt Sarah McIntyre (student)
Absent:	Russ Lord Dan Gretch – <i>excused</i> Abbas Heiat – <i>excused</i> David Garloff – ex-officio Mary McNally – ex-officio Mary Susan Fishbaugh – ex-officio Stacy Klippenstein – ex-officio	Sandie Rietz Connie Landis – <i>excused</i> Barb Pedula – <i>excused</i> Tasneem Khaleel – ex-officio John Cech – ex-officio Bob Carr – ex-officio
Guest:	Jane Howell for Brent Roberts	
Presiding:	Mark Hardt, Chair	

Since there was not a quorum, the Committee agreed to informal discussion with Provost White. The meeting began at 3:48 p.m. in the Bridger room of the SUB.

A. Timeline & Assessment Goals

Dr. White praised the hard work the Committee has done so far, and noted that we need to move to implementation of the embedded assessment very quickly. Our accreditation visit is coming up in 2008 and we not only need to have data from our assessment, but be able to show we are using that data to improve student learning and teaching.

Dr. White noted that Michael Barber has been tasked with finding an assessment software program that will meet all of our needs. A list of the program's required capabilities was distributed. If there are any additions that need to be made to this list, Dr. White asks that the Committee contact Dr. Barber directly.

Dr. White stated that we have to pilot a part of the assessment this spring and have the assessment fully integrated by fall 2007. That data will tell us if this system is going to work.

Recently, a reviewer from NWCCU made a preliminary visit to our campus. He cautioned not be too grandiose with our assessment objectives. We will be held accountable to what we say we will do. For example, if we say our students will develop social consciousness, we have to prove that they do.

Dr. White observed another problem with assessment is transfer students. We have articulation agreements with every community and tribal college in the state so that a student's general education course completed at those colleges will count towards our Academic Foundations. Therefore, it is our responsibility if those courses do not address our Academic Foundations assessment goals because we accepted the credits. Currently, the Board of Regents is proposing an online menu of all general education courses offered across the state. In effect, a student could take any general education course from any unit of the Montana University System online, and it will count as an Academic Foundations course taken at MSU-Billings. It will still be our responsibility to make sure our students meet our Academic Foundations goals, even if the students take *all* their general education courses from other units.

Dr. White also noted that there is a subcommittee of the CQI Steering Committee that is currently working on the NWCCU standards associated with general education. The AFC and the subcommittee are essentially doing the same thing, and they need to come together. Dean Tasneem Khaleel and Ms. Barb Pedula are chairing the subcommittee.

It was noted that the AFC is not just doing this because NWCCU requires it, but because it's the right thing to do and we have worked for years on it.

The meeting ended at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.