

**Academic Foundations Committee  
Minutes**

November 18, 2009

<b>Present:</b>	Bernie Quetchenbach Neil Suits Matt Redinger Kathe Gabel Richard Pierce Rita Kratky (ex-officio)	Kurt Toenjes Mike Havens Mark Fenderson Michael Scarlett Brent Roberts Tasneem Khaleel (ex-officio)
<b>Absent:</b>	George Czyz Melinda Tilton – <i>excused</i>	Tom Regele Neil Jussila – <i>excused</i>
<b>Guest:</b>	Lisa Kemmerer	
<b>Presiding:</b>	Matt Redinger, Chairperson	

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Matt Redinger called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. in the Missouri room.

The minutes of November 4 were accepted as presented.

I. ITEMS – FIRST READING

**Item 17** AF course: PHIL 233 Philosophies and Religions of India. Submit for Academic Foundations category I.V. B. Cultural Diversity.

**Item 17.a** AF course: PHIL 234 Philosophies and Religions of China, Tibet, and Japan. Submit for Academic Foundations category I.V. B. Cultural Diversity.

Lisa Kemmerer, Philosophy, stated that our students desperately need diversity and something other than only a western education.

It was stated that this proposal uses the old matrix of objectives, and the AFC is in the process of updating and reducing those objectives. It was suggested that the Committee should discuss criteria for course submission into Gen Ed before we actually approve a course. Item 17 and 17.a were set aside at this time.

II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

**A. Update on Reform of General Education Course Outcomes (OLD BUSINESS)**

It was noted that the only outcomes that are not finished at this time are Natural Sciences and Social Sciences.

It was cited that the BOR also have a set of outcomes for Gen Ed. It was stated that our outcomes are substantively the same as the University System outcomes; the BOR outcomes are just stated differently.

## **B. Guidelines for General Education Courses**

It was noted that it is not up to this Committee to decide the competencies necessary for a Gen Ed course, but rather the Departments. It was cited that any prerequisite could end up making a degree program more than 120 credits. It was responded that the Committee was mostly discussing COMPASS scores, rather than actual prerequisite courses. These competencies would be more informal, not a formal prerequisite in the catalog. It was noted that we are talking about two separate kinds of courses: (1) courses which need a prerequisite listed in the catalog and (2) courses with COMPASS score recommendations.

It was stated that a guide like the Committee is discussing already exists in the Academic Support Center Faculty Handbook. We can simply add to it. Courses which don't require math, reading, or writing competencies would have an "N/A" and any entry-level student could take them. It was noted that if we place competencies on every Gen Ed course, we could end up with students who can't really read or write taking heavy-content courses in his or her major.

It was cited that we should only allow other Gen Ed courses to be listed as prerequisites to a Gen Ed course, thus allowing for sequence courses.

It was noted that the Committee should discuss minimum COMPASS scores which can be recommended to faculty teaching Gen Ed courses.

It was cited that these guides will probably shift more students to courses with lower or no COMPASS recommendations.

## **C. Protocol for Vetting Courses**

It was noted that this process would be separate from the assessment database. We don't want faculty to re-justify their courses every year.

It was suggested that each Department could be asked, perhaps every catalog year, to review their Gen Ed courses and report any changes to the Committee. It was noted that we will need criteria for this separate from the assessment. It was proposed that Department Chairs could review the Gen Ed courses as part of their annual report. The Committee could send out a list of courses to each Department, asking them to verify that their Gen Ed Courses continue to meet given criteria. It was agreed that this review should not have to be done every year, but rather every catalog year.

## **III. ITEMS – FIRST READING**

**Item 17** AF course: PHIL 233 Philosophies and Religions of India. Submit for Academic Foundations category I.V. B. Cultural Diversity.

**Item 17.a** AF course: PHIL 234 Philosophies and Religions of China, Tibet, and Japan.  
Submit for Academic Foundations category I.V. B. Cultural Diversity.

- Motion by Bernie Quetchenbach, seconded by Neil Suits to **approve Items 17 and 17.a using the new outcomes for Cultural Diversity which have yet to be determined.**

- Motion carried.

#### IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

##### **D. What is the goal of General Education and Assessment?**

It was stated that anyone who can draw a line at 70% achievement has forgotten what education is about: not just knowledge but the process of attaining knowledge.

The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.