

**General Education Committee  
Minutes**

March 10, 2010

<b>Present:</b>	Bernie Quetchenbach Mike Havens Tom Regele Neil Jussila Brent Roberts Stephanie Haynie (student)	Melinda Tilton Matt Redinger Mark Fenderson Michael Scarlett Chase Slade (student)
<b>Absent:</b>	George Czyz Kathe Gabel Neil Suits – <i>excused</i>	Kurt Toenjes  Richard Pierce – <i>excused</i>
<b>Presiding:</b>	Matt Redinger, Chairperson	

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Matt Redinger called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. in the Missouri room.

The minutes of February 10 were accepted as presented.

I. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

**A. Service Learning/First Year Experience Retreat & Conference**

Dr. Redinger stated that he attended the First Year Experience (FYE) Conference in Denver with two staff members from Student Affairs. We are pretty much the only ones not officially doing an FYE, although we already offer many components of such a course. Dr. Redinger went looking for the perfect model which we could use at MSUB, but the models are all over the map.

Dr. Redinger stated the administration has decided that we will have an FYE, and service learning will be a part of it. The content of A&SC 101 College Success Strategies will also be included in the FYE. It will be the “one campus, one book” model with a seminar or workshop with the book’s author at the end of the course. Issues include who picks the book and who will teach the course. It was noted that the number one criteria for the book should be a Montana author or at least an author from the northwest.

It was noted that using the A&SC rubric is inappropriate for the FYE course because A&SC is a College of Arts & Sciences rubric. Perhaps the GEC should create a new rubric just for this course.

Last fall, the GEC had agreed that service learning will not be a part of Gen Ed.

Dr. Redinger noted that he met with representatives from Noel-Levitz (who are conducting our campus student satisfaction surveys) and they said that for the FYE to have any validity and positive impact for the University, the FYE cannot be isolated. The course has to be tied into subsequent courses. For example, the book used in the FYE could be a part of the student's English comp class. The GEC needs to discuss how the FYE will articulate with Gen Ed.

It was noted the whole FYE idea is mainly for retention. Dr. Redinger also noted that the most successful FYEs are discipline- or major-specific.

Dr. Redinger stated that the FYE will eventually be required for all incoming, first-time freshmen. Starting in Fall 2011, there will be a handful of sections as pilot courses, and students will self-select into the course. The Chancellor was pushing for a Fall 2010 start date, but it's just not realistic to implement that quickly because the course needs to be carefully planned. Transfer students will not be required to take the course. The course will be 1 credit, but they are working on making it 2 credits. The second credit will be the service learning component. They are going to put forward a request to the Board of Regents for an exception to the 120 credit cap (128 for education majors) to make it 122 (130 for education majors). Implementation at the COT is an issue, since many of their programs are built to be "get in, get out." The teaching model planned is to have a faculty member and a staff member (usually, but not necessarily, from Student Affairs) team-teach the course. The hope is the course will be such a resounding success faculty will be asking to teach it. It's also a way for faculty to market their majors to incoming students.

It was cited that any FYE needs to be carefully planned. If it is not, students do have a common experience: they hate it. Other institutions offer the course theme by choice of the professor, so faculty can teach a course in an area they may be interested in that is not necessarily in their discipline.

Dr. Redinger noted that no decisions need to be made at this time, but the GEC should be aware of how General Education will play a role.

## **B. Fall 2009 Analysis**

It was noted that most categories have improved over the last five semesters.

## **C. GEC Executive Summary for NWCCU Report**

Dr. Redinger noted that the end of the document lists the Committee's goals, including vetting of courses. It was agreed in Fall 2009 that Departments will be asked to review their courses for appropriateness for Gen Ed in catalog years. Dr. Redinger will send out a notice this semester to make Department Chairs aware of this process beginning in Fall 2010 (a catalog year).

It was noted that we do not have criteria for course appropriateness for Gen Ed. It was cited that we have already discussed the over-arching goal of Gen Ed. Do we need separate criteria? Criteria that are different from our category outcomes? It was stated that our category outcomes are so general that any course could fit.

It was cited that the real issue with Gen Ed course vetting is FTE. If FTE is completely divorced from the courses, there will no longer be such political issues and courses that don't necessarily belong in Gen Ed.

It was stated that we should not reference course vetting criteria in our NWCCU report, because we are only setting ourselves up for another problem.

It was agreed that the Committee will get the Bozeman and Missoula Gen Ed course vetting criteria for review.

The meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.