

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

February 14, 2012

Present:	Bernie Quetchenbach Neil Suits Matt Redinger Patricia Nichols Elizabeth Fullon Becky Lyons (ex-officio)	Melinda Tilton Mike Havens Mark Fenderson Michael Scarlett TyRee Jenks
Absent:	Kurt Toenjes	Tom Regele – <i>excused</i>
Presiding:	Matt Redinger, Chairperson	

Matt Redinger called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. in McMullen 305.

The minutes of October 11 and November 15 were accepted as presented.

I. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Report Requested from Academic Senate: Do we want to offer a General Education Certificate at MSUB? (MSU Great Falls and Gallatin College)

The Academic Senate has requested the GEC discuss whether we should join in the proposal with MSU Great Falls and Gallatin College to offer a Certificate in General Education. This program awards the student with an actual certificate when he or she completes the Gen Ed core. The Great Falls folks basically told the system-wide Gen Ed Council last year that they want to use this program to boost their reporting. The Gen Ed Council did not support this program.

It was noted that aside from the likely high administrative costs of implementing such a certificate at MSUB, it would award an unnecessary certificate.

- Motion by Neil Suits, seconded by Mark Fenderson, that **MSUB does not become involved in offering a Gen Ed Certificate program with MSU Great Falls and Gallatin College.**

- Motion carried.

B. Gen Ed Assessment Database

We were unable to get the data in time for this meeting.

It was cited that Departments are moving forward with assessments of their programs and the Gen Ed database is not part of that. We are moving away from the Gen Ed assessment system. The data is flawed because most faculty do not understand what they are supposed to be reporting. However, accreditation agencies are now encouraging anecdotal information rather than scientifically gathered data. Pre- and post-testing is also being discouraged. Narrative assessments are apparently what they want now.

The LEAP initiative is trying to tie program assessment to employer surveys, but it's unlikely we would ever get enough data on Gen Ed specifically to be meaningful.

C. AAC&U's Institute on General Education and Assessment

Dr. Redinger will be attending this conference next week in New Orleans. He hopes to bring back many new ideas to share with the Committee. AAC&U, the Lumina Foundation, and CollegeNow are all tied together.

D. COMPASS and Writing Courses at the COT

It was noted that students can test out of taking a writing course by scoring high enough on the COMPASS test. Since COT programs are only two years long, these students finish without ever taking a single writing course. Another point of concern: the COMPASS test is multiple choice, as MSUB does not use the essay portion of the test.

It was noted that in the next couple years, the GEC will have plenty of work to do in relation to the COT transitioning into whatever it is going to be.

The meeting ended at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.