

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

April 10, 2012

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

Matt Redinger called the meeting to order at 3:44 p.m. in the Missouri room.

The minutes of February 14 were accepted as presented.

I. ITEM – FIRST READING

Item 42 Gen Ed course: WRIT 221 Intermediate Technical Writing. Submit for General Education category I. B. English.

- Motion by Bernie Quetchenbach, seconded by Melinda Tilton to **approve Item 42 on first reading.**

It was noted that since Business Writing was moved to the 200-level, a log-jam of courses has occurred. The Department has wanted to teach tech writing regularly, and getting it in Gen Ed is a way to do that.

It was cited that page two of the proposal references intercultural communication, but such communication is not mentioned at all in the course description. Intercultural communication is not necessarily appropriate to the English subcategory.

- Motion by Mike Havens to **table Item 42 until Fall semester so the GEC can have a Department representative give the Committee more information.**

It was stated that the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Council has begun debating appropriateness of Gen Ed proposals. That is the mission and purview of the Gen Ed Committee. This issue will be brought to the Academic Senate this Fall.

II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. COMPASS and Writing Courses at the COT

The question was raised as to when MSUB started using the COMPASS test as we are now using it, that is, as a prerequisite for WRIT 201. By campus-wide policy, students who score in the 99th percentile of the COMPASS test for English have automatically tested out of WRIT 101. This is not necessarily an issue with four-year and Associate of Science programs, as those students will take a second writing course. The issue is with Associate of Applied Science programs at the COT. Those students are only required to take one writing course. In the case of the nursing program, WRIT 101 is specifically required. If the AAS students score high on the *multiple-choice* COMPASS test, they take no writing course during their time at MSUB.

The solution is not to remove the policy, as it is working in an appropriate manner in the four-year and Associate of Science programs and for transfer students. Instead, the best solution seems to be to educate faculty about the nature of the COMPASS, that it is not a written test. The COMPASS people have never claimed that their test meets the outcomes of WRIT 101 or any course, but that is how we are using it. We also need to inform faculty that a transcript showing a “P” in WRIT 101 indicates a student has tested out of the course through the COMPASS test. If the policy of accepting the 99th percentile were removed, there would be a significant number of students flooding WRIT 101 sections. However, Departments always have the ability to use another test, rather than the COMPASS, to challenge courses.

It was noted that the COMPASS test has been normed nationally and is actually statistically equivalent to a written test.

B. Report: AAC&U’s Institute on General Education and Assessment

Dr. Redinger and Ms. Fullon attended this conference. The main thing to report is that LEAP is coming and we will need to make sure our outcomes align with LEAP. The conference included presentations about a qualitative narrative approach to Gen Ed assessment that will likely be in our future as well. The approaches are also moving toward whole program assessment, rather than focusing on courses, working under the new assumption that students are not finished with Gen Ed until their four-year degree is complete.

C. Gen Ed Assessment Database

We have to keep using this system until we have something better.

The meeting ended at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.