

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

November 10, 2014

Present:	Bernie Quetchenbach	Melinda Tilton
	Mike Havens	Jennifer Lynn
	Tom Regele	Jodi Lightner
	Leanne Gilbertsen	Patricia Nichols
	Scott Harris	TyRee Jenks
	Carissa Sorenson (student)	Wyatt Powell (student)
Absent:	Mark Jacobson*	Kurt Toenjes*
	Matthew Queen	Rosemarie Dugi*
	Elizabeth Fullon*	

*excused

Mike Havens called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. in McMullen 305.

The minutes of October 13 were accepted as presented.

I. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Gen Ed Assessment Conference in Spring: February 19-21, 2015, in Kansas City, Missouri

Since the Committee doesn't know who or how many should attend, this will be postponed until the next meeting.

B. ETS Test: Recommendation to Academic Senate/Result of Meeting

As the GEC's idea was presented to the Senate, there seemed to be some agreement, aside from the graduation check-box idea which did not go over well. After the meeting took place, a new proposal with percentages shared out among the colleges which will add up to 300 students was put forward, and the Provost charged the Deans with getting it done. This is exactly what we didn't want. Handing it to the Deans, who will then hand it to the Chairs, and we will end up in the same place. At this time, the best idea may be to wait for the Deans to decide a plan and see how it works.

NWCCU asks us to assess Gen Ed, and what we really need is to get results which we can then use to make changes to Gen Ed. That is ultimately what NWCCU is looking for.

It was suggested that as senior students come in to advising sessions, faculty advisors tell them the students have to take the ETS test. This will also be suggested to the Deans.

C. Proposal to Count Japan Trip Course in Gen Ed Cultural Diversity Category

Scott Harris stated that he is hoping to offer BGEN 494 Japan Trip as an intersession course. The students will meet with him several times in Spring semester in preparation for the actual trip in May, 2015. A minimum of 10 enrolled students are needed, and the maximum is 15. This course is open to all students, not just business majors. In the past, students always ask where these study abroad trip credits count, and whether the credits can be used in Gen Ed. Beyond this course, it would be good if the Committee formed a policy for all study abroad courses.

It was agreed that if a study abroad course were to be added to the Gen Ed core, it would need a separate rubric and a 200-level number. However, the Committee will review the BGEN 494 Japan Trip before the course's absolute cut-off of December 3 and may be able to make a one-time recommendation that the course be counted in the Cultural Diversity category of Gen Ed. The vote will take place by email.

D. The Reduced Gen Ed Core (31 credits): How is it working?

This Committee needs to be mainly a philosophical committee, even though we've been working on the mechanics of administering the ETS test. We need to continue to discuss whether Gen Ed is working.

The meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.