

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

February 9, 2015

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

*excused

Kurt Toenjes called the meeting to order at 3:42 p.m. in McMullen 305.

The minutes of December 8 were accepted as presented.

I. ITEMS – FIRST READING

Item 80 ASTR 110 Introduction to Astronomy. Change course description.

It was noted that the course description will “strongly advise” students have taken at least high school algebra, which is really pretty vague. However, we don’t necessarily want to endorse a prerequisite.

- Motion by Scott Harris, seconded by Melinda Tilton to **approve Item 80 and waive a second reading.**

- Motion carried.

II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Biannual Gen Ed Course Review (was supposed to be Fall 2014)

Basically, the GEC simply asks Department Chairs to affirm that their Gen Ed offerings are still acceptable for Gen Ed. Dr. Toenjes will get this message out.

B. Catalog Text Review

The paragraph describing the move to 31 credits in Fall 2013 was revised.

C. ETS Test Update

The testing initiative is likely on hold while the budget cuts are hammered out. In COE, 80 tests were done. The online test now costs less than the paper test, but ETS requires the online test be proctored, so that doesn't really help us. If we create our own online assessment test, we will lose the data comparison with other universities we gain through ETS. It would be great to have data or feedback specifically about our online students' experience with Gen Ed. It was agreed that we will again share testing times in case any student would like to test at another time.

D. Study Abroad Courses in Gen Ed

Scott Harris reported that the Japan trip did not run. They got 7 students, but needed 10.

E. Assessment of Gen Ed Beyond the ETS Test

In Biological & Physical Sciences, they convene a student group to give qualitative feedback on their experiences in their majors: what they wanted more of, what didn't work, etc. Doing something like that for Gen Ed would be beneficial. A report written from the students would be a good source for Vice Provost Redinger's accreditation report.

Other suggestions included a short five-question survey students could fill out at some point, either online or on paper. A discussion thread in D2L may also be a good idea. The question of when to do such a survey then becomes the issue. It was proposed that when students transition from the Advising Center to a faculty advisor, the survey could be administered at that point.

It was noted that we will get very different answers from current students and students who have graduated and been out of school for a few years. We could work with our Alumni Association to survey students post-graduation. As for current students, we do have a ready-made group in the ASMSUB. If they agree, we could ask them for comments and feedback on Gen Ed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.