

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

March 9, 2015

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

*excused

Mike Havens called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. in McMullen 305.

The minutes of February 9 were accepted as presented.

I. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Biannual Gen Ed Course Review Update

Most Department Chairs should be familiar with this task. All the Committee needs is a statement from the Chairs that the Department's Gen Ed courses either have not changed in the last two years, or that the courses still fulfill the requirements of Gen Ed.

B. ETS Test Update

There is not much to share. We will get the Committee members' testing times out soon. It was noted that since some juniors have been tested already, it is a good idea to ask students to not take the test again if they have previously taken it. If anyone has problems, let Dr. Havens or Dr. Toenjes know.

The two main suggestions for ETS testing from the GEC seemed to be rejected. Those were to require the ETS test for graduation, or to give the test at a centralized testing center. A campus testing center would be useful not only for the ETS test, but for many other functions as well. The question was raised as to whether there is a long-term plan with ETS. It was noted that the Deans are to be coming up with a plan, but we don't know if it is happening yet.

We are using ETS because we are required by our accrediting agency, NWCCU, to assess our Gen Ed program. NWCCU wants to know that we are assessing the program and that we are using the data to make changes in the program. However, since we don't know what the objectives are that the ETS test is looking for, how are we to use the ETS data to make changes in our program?

C. Assessment of Gen Ed Beyond the ETS Test

The idea of having a test to compare the ETS test to is a good one. We would also like to know that the reduction to 31 credits has not been detrimental. The PRAXIS test which teacher education students take was suggested, but we are not legally allowed to receive those scores. The GRE test would work, and there are many practice GRE tests available online.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.