

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

September 12, 2016

Present:	Don Wilathgamuwa	Bernie Quetchenbach
	Melinda Tilton	Jim Barron
	Matthew Queen	Brent Finger
	Emily Arendt	Tom Regele
	John Roberts	Patricia Nichols
	Ken Miller	Scott Harris
	Elizabeth Fullon	Megan Thomas
	Matt Redinger (ex-officio)	

Absent: Leanne Gilbertson*

*excused

The meeting was called to order at 3:16 p.m. in McMullen 305.

I. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR 2016-2017

- Tom Regele nominated Jim Barron, and Matt Queen seconded.

- Carried.

Melinda Tilton agreed to co-chair.

The minutes of April 18 and Retreat on September 1 were accepted as presented.

II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. ETS as a Graduation Requirement

The Committee has discussed on numerous occasions that the ETS Proficiency Profile test won't give us good data unless all our students are taking it. In the past the Committee has been told it is not feasible to make the ETS test a graduation requirement, but we have now come to the point where it is necessary. We need a meaningful way to assess our Gen Ed program, and the ETS test will be a part of it. If we want to get something going this year, we need to take action at today's meeting, and we should never shy away from telling the administration this is the right thing to do.

It was noted that the cost may be high to test every student. Vice Provost Redinger noted that funding from the Assessment Fee is sufficient to cover the costs.

- Motion by Patty Nichols, seconded by Tom Regele that the GEC recommends to the Academic Senate **that the ETS test be made a graduation requirement for four-year programs and implement as soon as possible.**

- Motion carried.

It was noted that this policy cannot be implemented immediately because it needs to be added to the catalog as a requirement. Students under current catalogs won't be held to it necessarily, but we can still ask them to take the test. Advisors will need to be made aware of the test requirement, and they will need to urge students vigorously to get it done once the students finish Gen Ed.

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

Writing continues to be the biggest issue for students coming out of Gen Ed. The original intent was to have majors include a second writing course, but that has occurred piece-meal and not smoothly.

C. Gen Ed Outcomes Review

It was cited that the ETS test is just a snapshot. We also need to be able to show how our students have grown, so perhaps we should have a sample of freshmen take the ETS test as well. This could be done through the First Year Experience course, which not all students take.

What NWCCU wants from us is evidence we are meeting each of the 30 outcomes listed for Gen Ed. Ideally, we have category-specific assessment as well as program assessment. The ETS test is meant to assess the program. It was suggested that we align our 30 Gen Ed outcomes with the 8 scores we receive from the ETS test. There should be plenty of overlap.

It was stated that we need to assess not because NWCCU wants it, but because we care about what our students learn. We should basically be keeping two books, and do it as transparently as we can: we maintain our accreditation as painlessly as possible, and we accomplish what we want as well.

The Committee should also request a sample test or two, so we can see what level of questions are being asked. ETS does want their tests to stay under wraps, and we do have to pay for each one, but it is important that the Committee review the test. It was cited that the ETS short test does not cover everything, but the long test, which we will be using, does cover everything.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.