

**General Education Committee  
Minutes**

March 13, 2018

<b>Present:</b>	Tien Chih Melinda Tilton Matthew Queen Tom Regele Rebecca Muller	Bernie Quetchenbach Jim Barron Emily Arendt Cori Day
<b>Absent:</b>	John Roberts* Scott Harris* Lance Mouser Tara Haupt (ex-officio)*	Leanne Gilbertson* Megan Thomas* Brenna Beckett (student)
	*excused	
<b>Guests:</b>	Brian Gurney	Brenda Dockery

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Melinda Tilton called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. in the SUB Bridger room.

The minutes of February 13 were accepted as presented.

**I. ITEM – FIRST READING**

**Item 52** BMIS 150 Computer Literacy. Change title to Introduction to Cyber Security and change course description.

Brian Gurney, Business Administration, noted that BMIS 150 is currently in Gen Ed category I. C. Communication & Information Literacy, but has not been offered for a while. They would like to modify the course title, description, and outcomes. Mr. Gurney has taught Introduction to Cyber Security as a seminar and it has done well. This course, as modified, would be good for any major on campus, so it is appropriate to Gen Ed.

Brenda Dockery, Business Administration, noted that she is on the High Impact Practices team, and MSUB needs a freshman-level high impact course. The modified BMIS 150 would fit that bill perfectly.

It was noted that BMIS 150 Computer Literacy is only offered by MSUB, so we can change it without negotiating Common Course Numbering issues.

The question was raised as to what the students will do in relation to the outcomes of the Gen Ed category. Mr. Gurney responded that the students will do case write ups and hands-on exercises outside the classroom, which both involve research of various kinds. The question was raised as to whether the old course was intended as an introduction to using a computer, and should some of that content be included in the modified course.

It was agreed that the proposal should be revised. A new title of “Electronic Communication & Cyber Security” was suggested, as well as changes to the course description. The Committee also asked that the submitters provide a description of how this course will address the outcomes of the Gen Ed category.

## II. ASSESSMENT UPDATE

The GEC decision not to use the Praxis data has not yet been presented to Academic Senate. The Senate has still not acted on the GEC’s recommendation for mandatory testing using the ETS Proficiency Profile.

If and when the Senate does agree to mandatory testing, we won’t have data until the freshmen who enter under that catalog are finishing their degrees four years later. In the meantime, we will continue to test voluntarily using the Proficiency Profile. Each Spring, the Registrar sends out a letter to students who will need to apply to graduate the following year, and we plan to piggy-back on that message with a request that students take the Proficiency Profile. If they do, their \$50 graduation fee will be waived. The students will all be offered the opportunity to test online, unproctored.

As part of our accreditation report to NWCCU, Gen Ed falls under standard four. The report for standard four is 26 pages long, and 24 of those are about Gen Ed, so Dr. Barron edited the report down. However, the report is still predominantly about Gen Ed: we do have data and we have learned from it.

## III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

### **A. Biennial Review of Gen Ed Courses: Dividing Up the Work**

The reports will be reviewed to see that the departments stated how each course fits (1) the purpose of Gen Ed, (2) the course’s category description, and (3) the course’s category outcomes. It was agreed that Committee members should not review their own disciplines.

Matt Queen will do I. A. Math

Emily Arendt will do I. B. English

Bernie Quetchenbach will do I. C. Communication & Information Literacy

Scott Harris will do II. A. Life Science

Melinda Tilton will do II. B. Physical Sciences

Megan Thomas will do III. A. Social Sciences

Becky Muller will do III. B. History

Cori Day will do IV. Cultural Diversity

Tom Regele will do IV. Cultural Diversity  
Jim Barron will do V. A. Fine Arts  
Tien Chih will do V. B. Humanities

**B. Draft Gen Ed Program Learning Outcomes**

Ms. Tilton & Dr. Barron stated that rather than using these 30 outcomes covering each category, that we use outcomes that cover the whole program. Using the rubrics from AAC&U, they presented outcomes which the current categories fit into. Assessment will be through both the ETS Proficiency Profile and an e-portfolio of signature works submitted by the student. We would not need to review all of the e-portfolios, but rather take a random sample. That said, four of our Gen Ed categories will need a group of faculty to review e-portfolio submissions: History, Fine Arts, Communication & Information Literacy, and Cultural Diversity. ETS also provides us with a score for critical thinking, so although that is not a part of our Gen Ed, we can make it part of our assessment strategy. This proposal will make the categories more nebulous, so we will likely need to keep our Category Descriptions to for decision-making on Gen Ed course appropriateness.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.