

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

March 10, 2025

Present: Jennifer Lodine-Chaffey
Paul Pope
Mara Pierce
Daniel Willems
Daniel Charlton
Eileen Wright
Bryan Grove (ex-officio)
Kathleen Thatcher (ex-officio)

Melinda Tilton
Emily Arendt
Jason Comer
Ryan Butler
Chairsty Stewart
Elijah Sneigoski (student)
Aaron Schultz (ex-officio)

Absent: Carly Waddoups
*excused

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. in LA 627.

I. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 10 were accepted as presented.

II. REPORTS

A. TCE Course

The course is becoming a reality! The deadline for course proposals has been extended to this Friday to get a bigger pool of submissions. The Registrar's Office needs to get scheduling done for the course as soon as possible. Once the proposals are approved, the CTL and TCE Subcommittee will hold a mandatory training for those instructors to include the Essential Skills from Gen Ed.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Review and Assess Artifacts: Preliminary discussion

Ms. Tilton and Kathleen Thatcher, Director of Assessment & Accreditation, reviewed the preliminary data last week. However, over half of the results were submitted today, so the Committee reviewed as much of the data as could be pulled in the last hour. It was discovered that Qualtrics was automatically excluding all the N/A responses, so those need to be added back in.

Ms. Thatcher noted that the vast majority of our students are achieving outcomes 3 (Use statistical or mathematical methods to solve problems) and 4 (Use scientific methods to solve problems). However, we have almost no courses that can demonstrate they are achieving outcome 5 (Use quantitative and qualitative information to provide solutions to social and/or ethical problems).

One issue experienced by several GEC members in submitting data is being unable to assess whether the student artifacts met the outcome, so there are many N/A responses. It was noted that when we ask for the student artifacts, we also need to ask for the correct responses. We could also ask departments to supply us an expert in a given discipline to help us discern correct responses.

It was noted that, now that we have removed the lab requirement from Gen Ed, we don't really have a way to assess students using the scientific method. They may be able to *identify* and *explain*, but *use* may now be out of reach.

It was noted that we did not ask the instructors who were submitting artifacts which outcomes they achieve in their course. Thus, there are some that do not list which of the three they meet. The rest are measured against the outcomes they are mapped to in the current curriculum map, or based on the responses collected on the mapping Qualtrics last Fall.

Once the straggler data has been entered, Ms. Thatcher will send a final summary of the results to the GEC. Members are asked to read through the data and make a couple of observations to send in, by March 31. Ms. Tilton will then create a draft "close the loop" letter to faculty who participated.

The committee also discussed improvements for when this category is assessed again, in four years. We do not want to limit the number of questions/problems submitted. If students get some but not all of those questions correct, we round up on our assessment scoring. Keeping good examples from this group of artifacts might prove helpful.

Further results of this assessment work include whether the Committee should revise the program learning outcomes, or ensure that students get enough time to practice to achieve those outcomes. Are students getting introduced to the topics early and often enough?

B. Curriculum Map Discussion

It was noted that the courses that have been scored N/A may be giving us the data we need for the curriculum map. If they consistently score N/A, the course should not be mapped to that outcome.

C. Increased Engagement in Assessment of Gen Ed

It was suggested that the Chancellor promote our efforts at the State of the University and the opening faculty meeting in August. The assessment of Gen Ed is also part of the strategic plan, and the Chancellor always covers the plan in the August meetings. An assessment day or week on campus may help promote our project, as well. We can work with the CTL to create a presentation on what we are looking for, which will both promote the project and refine the results we get.

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.