

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

April 14, 2025

Present:	Jennifer Lodine-Chaffey Paul Pope Mara Pierce Daniel Charlton Chairsty Stewart Aaron Schultz (ex-officio)	Melinda Tilton Emily Arendt Jason Comer A.J. Otjen Bryan Grove (ex-officio) Kathleen Thatcher (ex-officio)
Absent:	Carly Waddoups Ryan Butler	Daniel Willems* Eileen Wright*
	*excused	

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

I. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 10 were accepted as presented.

II. REPORTS

Ms. Tilton met with the Center for Teaching and Learning, and they agree that a workshop on the assessment process and rubrics is a great idea. Other meetings included:

- Suzette Nynas, Chair of the Academic Senate—they are on board with our assessment process
- Chancellor Stefani Hicswa agrees the GEC is part of the “secret sauce” at MSUB, and will give a shout-out to the GEC in the Fall
- In the Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review, recently accepted by NWCCU, Kathleen Thatcher has cited the *authentic* assessment of learning we are doing.

A. The College Experience Course (COLS 108)

The CTL has confirmed six instructors for the new TCE course this Fall. They, along with Ms. Tilton and Emily Arendt, will hold a training in early May on the value of Gen Ed. It was noted that students should know that the skills gained from Gen Ed courses are real-world job skills, and social skills. The narratives the Committee has developed will also be shared. We want to illustrate the interwoven nature of the Gen Ed program.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Finalize “Close the Loop” Letter to Faculty

The letter was agreed to be concise and effective. The Gen Ed Programmatic Learning Outcomes will be included.

B. Major Assessment Findings

We have a lot of “N/A” responses in our data, and the reasons for those vary from “I do not have the expertise to assess this artifact” to “The assignment/artifact does not apply to this learning outcome.” It was noted that we need to engage experts from other disciplines, because we need their support.

It was noted that, if the data consistently shows N/A responses for a given course, maybe that course should be removed from the curriculum map as achieving that outcome. Of course, instructors or departments can make the case to the GEC that a course does achieve an outcome. We also need to assure faculty that changes in the curriculum map do not mean a course is removed from the Gen Ed Core.

Many of our N/A responses are due to faculty submitting artifacts based only on the learning outcome. We need to ensure that the submitters are reading the rubric so they know what we mean by “problem solve.” Clarification that Gen Ed courses should not be meeting all or nearly all of the program learning outcomes is important. Courses should be meeting two or maybe three of the learning outcomes, at most. We need student artifacts that demonstrate the outcome, so while many courses may have classroom discussions that demonstrate “problem solve” (or any other outcome), the course may not have documentation that can be shared with the GEC.

Regarding outcome 4 (Use scientific methods to solve problems), it may need to be changed or reinterpreted, since we no longer require a lab course in Gen Ed. Students can be aware of scientific methods, but *using* them is perhaps no longer a part of Gen Ed.

The Committee received very few courses and very few student artifacts that apply to outcome 5 (Use quantitative and qualitative information to provide solutions to social and/or ethical problems). We may need more courses that focus on this outcome. Or, the outcome may need to be reworded, combined with outcome 4, or removed.

For our next round, the Qualtrics the Committee uses to assess the artifacts should have both an “N/A” with a comment box and a choice to indicate the artifact does not apply to the learning outcome at all.

It was noted that, if the GEC and Academic Senate require both the Gen Ed Purpose Statement and the applicable Gen Ed program learning outcome(s) on the syllabus, this would essentially clean up our curriculum map. We could use that information to appropriately map each course. It was noted that some Gen Ed syllabi may be listing the Gen Ed course learning outcomes, so we don’t want to confuse people between the course and program outcomes.

Ms. Thatcher noted that NWCCU will be visiting us this Fall, October 8-10. They may want to meet with the Gen Ed Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.