

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

October 13, 2025

Present:	Carly Waddoups Melinda Tilton Joseph Bryan Hashini Herath Karen Washburn Bryan Grove (ex-officio) Kathleen Thatcher (ex-officio)	Jennifer Lodine-Chaffey Leigh Ann Ruggiero Jason Comer Ryan Butler Eileen Wright Aaron Schultz (ex-officio)
Absent:	Hope Dewell Gentry Mara Pierce* Eric Gilbertsen*	Emily Arendt* A.J. Otjen

*excused

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. in LA 627.

I. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of September 8 were accepted as presented.

II. REPORTS**Debrief from NWCCU Visit**

The meeting with the NWCCU team and the GEC did not go as planned. MSUB received a recommendation to continue assessment of Gen Ed. They did not seem to acknowledge the tremendous work this committee has done in the last 7 years.

Ms. Tilton presented a brief list of the major accomplishments over the last 7 years:

- Researched other institutions
- Revised Gen Ed Purpose
- Developed Program Learning Outcomes (reduced from 36 to 9)
- Changing the Gen Ed conversation
- Gen Ed logo
- Criteria for new Gen Ed courses
- Mapped all Gen Ed courses to Program Learning Outcomes

- Created theme: *Meaningful, manageable, and sustainable*
- Completed 2 cycles of assessment with authentic student work
- Closed the loop
- The College Experience course

It was noted that the NWCCU team seemed to think that the learning outcomes for the entire University were tied to the Gen Ed program. This makes no sense, because it's definitely beyond the scope of this committee. Most of the meeting time with the team was taken up with this misunderstanding. We will get more information once the written report is out, but perhaps the recommendation will be to involve more departments and faculty in the assessment process.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Review of Problem Solve Learning Outcome 5. Use quantitative and qualitative information to provide solutions to social and/or ethical problems

In our round of assessment last year for Problem Solve, we had almost no artifacts that spoke to outcome 5. It was suggested that the use of quantitative and qualitative information could be moved to and covered by outcomes in Think Critically. It was further suggested that the ideas in outcome 5 could be added to the assessment rubric for Think Critically.

- Motion by Leigh Ann Ruggiero, seconded by Jennifer Lodine-Chaffey to **remove outcome 5.**

- Motion carried.

B. Scientific Method and Lab Requirement – Review Problem Solve 4. Use scientific methods to solve problems

Since this outcome was written, the committee has removed the lab course requirement from Gen Ed. The issue becomes “*use* scientific methods.” Students can learn about, identify, and explain the scientific method, but they don't *use* it unless they perform an experiment in the lab. Currently, Biological & Physical Sciences is offering some courses with “lab exercises” as part of the lecture. These are not true lab hours. There is also not much appetite from the Department for developing more courses with “lab exercises” or 2 credit lectures that have a 1 credit lab. We need to reevaluate the terminology of the outcome.

It was noted that we could leave the outcome as it is, and use the failure of courses to meet the outcome as a driver to add the lab credit back to Gen Ed (for a total of 32). The Board of Regents is moving toward a policy where majors are restricted in the number of credits, which may make the fight for another Gen Ed credit a bit easier.

It was agreed the outcome will stay as it is, and we will use our data to inform future decisions.

C. Think Critically Assessment Fall 2025

1. Results of mapping survey

- 5 courses not offered this semester
- 8 courses confirmed they are mapped correctly

- A few courses had disagreement among the instructors about which outcomes achieved
- 2 courses removed as they do not achieve the outcomes

2. Revised assessment rubric

The subcommittee attempted to make the rubric as simple as possible. There was some terminology discussion, and members were asked to review and make suggestions to Leigh Ann Ruggiero before the November meeting.

3. Second email and timeline

Last year we opened the collection Qualtrics the third week of November, and closed it after Finals Week. It was agreed the Qualtrics will open November 17 and close December 19.

Last year, instructors had mostly not looked at the rubric, so this year we will encourage them to check it to see if their course achieves the outcome(s).

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.