



**General Education Committee
Minutes**

March 9, 2026

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

Guests:	Suzette Nynas	Kathleen Thatcher
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The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. in LA 627.

I. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 9 were accepted as presented.

II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Review Think Critically Data

The sample was very limited. We seem to be meeting outcome 6 (Locate and evaluate information from multiple sources) particularly well, but not as well for outcome 7 (Synthesize evidence to construct logical arguments). In the last round of assessments, we had a large number of artifacts that were not applicable to the outcome. For Think Critically, we have fewer non-applicable artifacts. It's important to discuss these results with the instructors of these courses, not just keep the data. We could even hold an end-of-year event to discuss.

It was noted that if the GEC is in charge of vetting new courses to be added to the Gen Ed core, we should be able to exclude courses to maintain the viability of the Gen Ed core.

The question was raised as to whether the GEC should require listing of the applicable program learning outcomes on each Gen Ed courses' syllabus, and whether the GEC should collect copies of

those syllabi. It was noted that we need to encourage faculty to only choose 2-3 program learning outcomes to achieve in their courses. It is perfectly fine to be at “emerging” rather than “achieving” for most of the program learning outcomes, and we need to emphasize that, as well. We must ask instructors if they achieve the outcome, and can they demonstrate that through an assignment/artifact.

It was noted that outcome 7 is more nuanced than outcome 6. Does 7 need to be changed? It was noted that this is one of the reasons the TCE course was created: to help demonstrate that our students start at a lower ability and we move them further, to the national average. It was agreed outcome 7 should remain as it is.

B. Close the Loop Letter for Think Critically

It was agreed that a small chart with a summary of the results should be included in the letter. In the past, the Close the Loop letter was only sent to those who were asked to participate, but now it will be sent to all faculty. The letter will also allude to the next category, Communicate Effectively, coming this Fall. We could ask that faculty who receive the letter click a link if they think their course fits into the Communicate Effectively category.

Kathleen Thatcher noted that we have received the official letter with recommendations from NWCCU. The Gen Ed recommendation is specifically referring to the GEC completing the full cycle of assessment, covering all the categories. We will be completing that next fall. Language from the standard could be used in the Close the Loop letter.

C. Increasing Compliance with Artifact Collection

The GEC should join the Department Chairs start of year meeting in August. We could get stickers with the Gen Ed logo and distribute them. We need to have example artifacts. The Senate has just scheduled (in conjunction with the unions) an All Faculty meeting August 27, so reminders and discussion about the assessment process could be part of that.

At our April meeting, we should plan an August training, emphasizing why assessment of Gen Ed is important (including NWCCU); discuss the assessment rubric for Communicate Effectively; explain what “emerging,” “developing,” and “achieving” mean; and explain how easy it is to submit artifacts to the GEC.

After the Communicate Effectively assessment is finished next year, the Committee will consider requiring 1-3 program learning outcomes be stated on Gen Ed course syllabi, in addition to the Gen Ed Purpose Statement. This will help link the learning outcomes to assignments, as well as keep the curriculum map up to date.

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.