

**Academic Foundations Committee
Minutes**

November 30, 2004

Present:	Mark Hardt Connie Landis Noreen Lee Amanda Mears (student)	Randall Gloege Susan Gilbertz Barb Pedula Lewis Rife (student)
Absent:	James Nowlin Stan Wiatr – <i>excused</i> Carl Hanson – <i>ex-officio</i> John Cech – <i>ex-officio</i> George White – <i>ex-officio</i> Janie Park – <i>ex-officio</i>	Abbas Heiat Tasneem Khaleel – <i>ex-officio</i> Randy Rhine – <i>ex-officio</i> Joe Michels – <i>ex-officio</i> Curt Kochner – <i>ex-officio</i>
Guest:	Brent Roberts	
Presiding:	Mark Hardt, Chair	

Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. in the Madison room of the SUB.

The minutes of November 16 were accepted as presented.

I. Presentation from Brent Roberts, Reference Librarian

Mr. Roberts stated that the Library would like to submit a course for Academic Foundations concerning Information Literacy. Information Literacy is the ability to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively. Most of our students can find the information they need for a given project, but they can't evaluate the quality of the source of that information. Information Literacy is not about using a computer; it is a broader topic including all kinds of information. There are currently three full time Reference Librarians that could teach several sections of this course, many of which could be online. Currently, the Library is thinking of proposing a 2 credit course. It would be assumed that most students had some computer competency, as the course would focus on analyzing and incorporating information into papers and projects.

It was noted that since the Colleges will be submitting packages, the Library would have to work with the College of Arts and Sciences to add this course to their package.

It was observed that the Information Literacy component could be added to an English course as a lab-type experience. It was cited that Information Literacy is not discipline-specific, and should not fall to just one department.

It was noted that a 2 credit course in Academic Foundations will leave students needing one more credit to complete the 37 credit package. Students probably wouldn't take the course for that reason.

II. Arts and Sciences Chairs Meeting: Susan Gilbertz

Dr. Gilbertz noted that there was strong opposition to the Elective Category. The Chairs will probably recommend cutting the Elective Category and adding 3 communication credits to the Global Academic Skills Category.

She also noted that Steve Coffman, Chair of Communication and Theatre, stated that dropping communication from Academic Foundations wouldn't be that bad, as the majors that need a communication course will pick it up anyway.

The Chairs also stated that the two Sciences categories should specify students must take courses from two different rubrics.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Lewis Rife specify in the Natural Sciences and Social Sciences Categories students must earn credits from two different rubrics.

- Motion carried.

III. Results from Academic Senate Report on November 18, 2004

A. Revisit Category VI. Elective

It was noted that the Senate seemed opposed to the Elective Category as well, and would rather see a Skills for a Modern Society Category that includes communication and computers. It was noted that a category like that will be hard, if not impossible to assess. It was noted that the same problem is presented with the Elective Category. It was noted that all the categories are elective to an extent, because students will choose from a list in the category. Will that be assessable? It was cited that the courses in a category should have some commonality, which would be assessable. However, there may not be commonality in a Skills for a Modern Society Category. What do public speaking and computers have in common?

It was suggested that a Literacies course could be created, divided into the three areas of visual, information, and computer literacy. This would definitely be an integrated course.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Susan Gilbertz to eliminate the Elective Category, move 3 credits to Global Academic Skills, and call those 3 credits a subcategory named Information Literacy.

- Motion carried: 4 for, 1 against, 1 abstention

B. Request Staffing Pattern for New Academic Foundations Course Submissions

It was noted that the Academic Foundations Committee shouldn't really be concerned with staffing patterns, but the UCC might need them.

- Motion by Susan Gilbertz, seconded by Randall Gloege to recommend to the Academic Senate that they require a staffing pattern be submitted to the UCC for any new course.
- Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.