

Academic Foundations Committee Minutes

November 9, 2004

Absent: Amanda Mears (student)
Noreen Lee – *excused*
Carl Hanson – *ex-officio*
John Cech – *ex-officio*
George White – *ex-officio*
Janie Park – *ex-officio*
James Nowlin – *excused*
Tasneem Khaleel – *ex-officio*
Randy Rhine – *ex-officio*
Joe Michels – *ex-officio*
Curt Kochner – *ex-officio*

Presiding: Mark Hardt, Chair

Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 3:50 p.m. in room B40 of the College of Technology.

The minutes of October 19 and 26 were accepted as presented.

I. New Membership Needed

Work is in progress on getting a member from the Natural Sciences.

II. Discussion/Action Items

It was noted that the Library wants to submit a course to Academic Foundations. The Library would have to coordinate with the Arts and Sciences Chairs to be part of their package.

A. Guidelines for Departments

It was cited that there is nothing stopping colleges from putting all their submissions together as a package. The only requirement the Committee has is that no more than 10 courses are submitted for each category from each college.

It was observed that this Committee will serve as an oversight body for the Academic Foundations Program. We will ensure ongoing quality maintenance of all the courses in Academic Foundations through assessment.

It was noted that our students really need two writing courses. This program will likely not fly without two writing courses. It was also noted that at this stage a capstone course is inappropriate. Perhaps later as the program develops a capstone could be added.

It was stated that we should remove the electives in Academic Foundations and just specify how many credits will be in each category. It was noted that some flexibility can give the students a chance to explore something new.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Lewis Rife to (1) remove 3 elective credits, (2) add 3 credits to the Global Academic Skills category, and (3) drop the “maximum allowable credits” from each category.

- Motion carried.

It was noted that the issue of a higher-level course counting in Academic Foundations has not been resolved. It was cited that ultimately double counting and substituting are advising issues.

It was noted that if a student is allowed to double count one course (in both Academic Foundations and her/his major), what is the point of having a rule about double counting? Students will most likely only double count one course in their major anyway. The focus of this Committee should be the quality of the Academic Foundations program and courses, not how departments manipulate those requirements.

- Motion by Susan Gilbertz, seconded by Abbas Heiat that once the Academic Foundations package is complete, how that package is implemented by departments is no concern of the Committee, and where those credits count in a student’s plan of study is not this Committee’s concern, so long as the students fulfill Academic Foundations and University requirements.

- Motion carried.

- Motion by Connie Landis, seconded by Randall Gloege to include in the department guideline sheet that the Committee anticipates approving 6 to 8 courses for each category.

- Motion carried.

The Committee decided that there would be subcategories set up in Global Academic Skills, History and Cultural Diversity, and Arts and Humanities to be consistent with the Board of Regents categories.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.