

**Academic Foundations Committee  
Minutes**

February 22, 2005

- Present:** Mark Hardt  
Susan Gilbertz  
Barb Pedula
- Connie Landis  
Abbas Heiat
- Absent:** Sandie Rietz  
Randall Gloege – *excused*  
Emily Valenzuela (student) – *excused*  
Carl Hanson – *ex-officio*  
John Cech – *ex-officio*  
George White – *ex-officio*  
Janie Park – *ex-officio*
- Noreen Lee – *excused*  
Lewis Rife (student) – *excused*  
Tasneem Khaleel – *ex-officio*  
Randy Rhine – *ex-officio*  
Joe Michels – *ex-officio*  
Curt Kochner – *ex-officio*
- Presiding:** Mark Hardt, Chair
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Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 3:52 p.m. in room B36 at the College of Technology.

The minutes of February 8 were accepted as presented.

I. Discussion/Action Items

A. Change of Deadline by Academic Senate

Mark Hardt noted that once again, the Senate has moved the deadline for submitting courses back. The timeline below was adopted by the Senate.

- End of Spring 2005: Deadline to submit courses for Academic Foundations
- Fall 2005: Academic Foundations Committee works out package
- End of Fall 2005: Academic Foundations Committee finishes package and submits it to Academic Senate
- Spring 2006: Departments/Colleges modify programs in response to Academic Foundations
- November 16, Fall 2006: Deadline for program changes
- Fall 2007: Catalog in effect, including new Academic Foundations program

It was suggested that when the Committee does receive submissions, we could form subcommittees to work on each individual category.

B. Meeting with UCC on February 23 (4:00 pm, Missouri room)

It was noted that the UCC just wants to know what the Academic Foundations Committee wants them to do.

It was stated that the UCC should review all the new courses submitted for Academic Foundations for their academic merit. The UCC no longer has to worry about including and excluding courses from general education, as that is now the provision of the Academic Foundations Committee. If the UCC approves a course, the Academic Foundations Committee will not have an issue with it. The only thing the Academic Foundations Committee will do is decide how that course fits (or doesn't fit) in the Academic Foundations package.

It was noted that the UCC should also be looking at staffing patterns for those new courses. However, it was cited that until a department knows how many of their courses will be accepted in Academic Foundations, they cannot provide an accurate staffing pattern. It was observed that departments should still be thinking about staffing, even if their staffing pattern is inaccurate right now.

It was cited that the State of Montana is moving toward a common core of transferable courses for all the units in the Montana University System. We should try to anticipate what that might be, so we can step forward prepared. It was remarked that we already have that to an extent, because our categories match up with the Board of Regents required categories. It was also noted that as a smaller unit, we may be asked to prove that our courses are as good as the larger units' courses.

C. Assessment

It was noted that the assessment component, requested by NWCCU, has still not been done. They want an assessment of the general education program.

It was suggested that perhaps an exit test would be effective, considering the importance we give to other tests like ACT and COMPASS. The danger is that instructors will end up just teaching to the test.

It was cited that self-assessment by the students is very valuable, and it would not have to be a test. A list of open-ended questions may suffice.

For the next meeting, perhaps we should review other institutions' methods of assessment. Bozeman has just completely revamped their gen ed program. We should check out what they are doing for assessment.

It was noted that the real goal of Academic Foundations is not to produce a generally educated student, but to produce a student who is ready to move on to a higher level of education. It was suggested that statement be added to the Academic Foundations Document.

The Committee decided that with no further issues and the timeline as it is, they will go on hiatus in March and begin meeting again in April.

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.