

**Academic Foundations Committee
Minutes**

January 31, 2006

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| Present: | Randall Gloege Mark Hardt Sandie Rietz Bruce Brumley Jani Pedersen (student) | Dan Gretch Connie Landis Abbas Heiat Lewis Rife (student) |
| Absent: | Susan Gilbertz – <i>excused</i> David Garloff – <i>ex-officio</i> John Cech – <i>ex-officio</i> Mary Susan Fishbaugh – <i>ex-officio</i> George White – <i>ex-officio</i> | Tasneem Khaleel – <i>ex-officio</i> Kirk Lacy – <i>ex-officio</i> Mary McNally – <i>ex-officio</i> Curt Kochner – <i>ex-officio</i> |
| Guests: | Mike Campbell | Gary Amundson |
| Presiding: | Mark Hardt, Chair | |

Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 3:47 p.m. in the Bridger room of the SUB.

The minutes of January 24 were accepted as presented.

I. Discussion/Action Items

A. Report to Academic Senate this Thursday

It was noted that NWCCU may want finished assessment data by 2008, rather than just a start on the process, but if we get the assessment component built this semester, we will be way ahead. It was noted that Provost George White wants specific things that we will be measuring, and he will be asking for them at Senate Thursday.

It was cited that we already have one part of the assessment: the objectives the students should achieve. Now we need to get the other part that shows the students are acquiring those objectives. In the portfolio system used in the College of Education, the onus is on the student to gather assignments that fit a certain objective. Then faculty grade how well that assignments fits the objective—which is cumbersome. It was noted that instead of grading the student assignments on how well they fit, a simple yes or no would be cleaner.

It was noted that NWCCU seems to want an assessment at three points: the beginning, middle, and end. This Committee should work on the middle assessment, and leave the beginning and end to the administration and the Provost.

It was stated that for the report to the Senate, we can summarize what our response was to Provost White and then talk about the “missing piece” of the assessment that we will be working on.

B. Additional Submissions

1. Resubmitted Courses

Item 42 Resubmitted AF Course: COMT 110 Interpersonal Communication for Cat. III. Social Sciences

It was noted that the syllabus is still vague and the matrix has mostly short copy-paste responses that demonstrate a fundamental misunderstanding of what the matrix is for. It was cited that Dan Gross, Chair of Communication and Theatre, explained (to the Senate) the vague proposal by saying the AFC didn’t understand the importance of communication.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Sandie Rietz to reject Item 42 because the submitted paperwork is inadequate.
- Motion carried with 3 abstentions.

Item 42.a Resubmitted AF Course: COMT 130 Introduction to Public Speaking for Cat. I. Global Academic Skills C. Information Literacy

Item 42.b Resubmitted AF Course: COMT 250 Introduction to Acting for Cat. V. Arts and Humanities A. Arts

It was noted that COMT 130 does not address the objectives of the Information Literacy Category.

- Motion by Connie Landis, seconded by Sandie Rietz to accept Item 42.a in the Category of Information Literacy.
- Motion failed with 2 abstentions.

It was cited that the match between the syllabus and matrix for COMT 250 is improved, but it is the same generic copy-paste matrix.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Abbas Heiat to accept Item 42.b for the Arts Category.
- Motion failed with 2 abstentions.

2. Additional Courses (new)

Item 47.b AF Course: ECON 200 Principles of Microeconomics for Cat. III. Social Sciences

Item 47.c AF Course: ECON 201 Principles of Macroeconomics for Cat. III. Social Sciences

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Sandie Rietz to accept Items 47.b and 47.c for the Social Sciences category.

It was noted that these are good submissions that are doing what they are supposed to do. These courses are not restricted to business majors.

- Motion carried with 2 abstentions.

Item 43 AF Course: DSGN 248 Computer Presentation and Animations for Cat. V. Arts and Humanities A. Arts

It was stated that this submission is very full of technology and has a good matrix and complete syllabus. However, there is not much emphasis on artistic design. Also, for COT students only there are two prerequisite courses: Introduction to Computers (CMP 105) and College Mathematics for Technology (MATH 122). It was noted that any student can take the course with consent of instructor. It was observed that this course is clear on how, but not why.

It was noted that this course needs some clarification of how it fits Academic Foundations and what aesthetics are taught in the course.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Abbas Heiat to move Item 43 to table 2 (recommended for approval pending minor revisions) and explain why.
- Motion carried with 3 abstentions.

Item 47 AF Course: BUS 101 Introduction to Business for Cat. III. Social Sciences

Item 47.a AF Course: FIN 201, 202, 203 Financial Planning for Everyone series for Cat. III. Social Sciences

It was stated that BUS 101 is not too narrow of focus to be included. However, FIN 201, 202, and 203 are three one-credit courses that students have an option to take just part of. Mike Campbell, Chair of Business Academic Programs, noted that they would change the finance series to one three credit course if that is needed.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Sandie Rietz to accept Item 47.a in the Social Sciences Category provided an integrated syllabus is submitted and the appropriate curriculum committees have approved the merged course.

- Motion carried. With 2 abstentions.

The Committee agreed that someone else should review BUS 101 before it is approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.