

**Academic Foundations Committee
Minutes**

January 22, 2008

Present: Oliver Chen
Lea Zoltowski
Jane Howell

Mark Hardt
Abbas Heiat

Absent: Kathy Kelker
Jay Shaw – *excused*
David Garloff – ex-officio
Gary Young – ex-officio
Karen Heikel – ex-officio
George White – ex-officio

Tasneem Khaleel – ex-officio
Mary Susan Fishbaugh – ex-officio
John Cech – ex-officio
Stacy Klippenstein – ex-officio

Presiding: Mark Hardt, Chairperson

Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 3:54 p.m. in the Bridger room of the SUB.

The minutes of November 13 were accepted as presented.

I. Discussion/Action Items

A. December Academic Senate Meeting

Dr. Hardt noted that he was aware that a revolt among the faculty was growing due to the labor-intensive nature of eCompanion's data collection. In order to ease the tension, Dr. Hardt made a motion that eCompanion not be required. Provost White asked that the motion be qualified to say that if eCompanion is not used, some other assessment collection device must be used (i.e., the department cannot elect to *not do* assessment). The Academic Senate approved the motion.

B. Results of Info Sessions on Main & COT Campuses Last Fall

All of the responses from the Info Sessions were positive—including responses from faculty who received the information second-hand. It was noted that our only worry are the people who have not attended the Info Sessions.

C. Info Session for the Spring 2008 Semester

Dr. Hardt noted that the AFC should probably hold off on setting up another info session, because this week Information Technology will be making a presentation to the Senate about a simple spreadsheet they have devised which will be able to collect class percentages rather than individual student scores. The goal of this simpler system will be to collect the

percentage of students who pass a given assessment objective. Passing has been defined as a C or better. If the spreadsheet is acceptable, perhaps the only thing the AFC will need to present for an info session are the options faculty have: eCompanion or the spreadsheet.

D. Scale for Assessment Results

If the spreadsheet model is accepted, a scale will not be necessary.

E. Meeting with Michael Barber, Brent Roberts, & CQI Committee to Discuss How Spring 2007/Fall 2007 Assessment Data will be Organized

It was noted that we no longer need to meet with Dr. Barber and Mr. Roberts. However, the data from Fall 2007 is still scattered across the campus. It may be that Tim Tirrell, our new Director of eLearning, will be gathering and combining this data. It's also possible there is more data out there than we know of, because faculty could have been collecting data but did not have a way to report it. Perhaps it would be helpful for the Committee to meet with Mr. Tirrell.

Jane Howell noted that she and Dean Khaleel will be working on the narrative for Standard 2 (which includes Academic Foundations) in our NWCCU report. It would be helpful if the AFC could review the assessment results and help decide what our future plans should be.

F. Academic Foundations Program Assessment

It was noted that we still have not built the "end" assessment, the assessment that is to cover the whole program. The AFC had discussed a capstone as part of individual programs. Valerie Martinez, Associate Dean of the COT, has proposed a couple of solutions and she should meet with the Committee to discuss them.

G. NWCCU Assessment Workshop

Dr. Hardt noted that he, Lorrie Steerey, Bruce Brumley, and Craig McKenzie (all members of the Academic Senate) are going to a NWCCU workshop on assessment in Seattle. However, Dr. Hardt may need someone else from the AFC to attend in his place due to a scheduling conflict.

H. WR and TN Courses Audit

It was noted that the writing and technical course policy needs to be enforced and the courses need to be audited to make sure they still fit the description of WR and TN. It was cited that the AFC could also design some outcome objectives for WR and TN courses.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.