

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

November 16, 2015

Present:	Don Wilathgamuwa	David Craig
	Melinda Tilton	Kurt Toenjes
	Matthew Queen	Mike Havens
	Jennifer Lynn	Tom Regele
	Leanne Gilbertsen	Patricia Nichols
	Scott Harris	Elizabeth Fullon
	Megan Thomas	Colin Buck (student)
	Alan Loomis (student)	Matt Redinger (ex-officio)
	Becky Lyons (ex-officio)	
Absent:	John Roberts*	Rosemarie Dugi

*excused

Kurt Toenjes called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. in McMullen 305.

The minutes of October 19 were accepted as presented.

It was agreed that the Committee will not meet in December.

I. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. AACU Summer 2016 Gen Ed & Assessment Institutes (*Application deadline is February 12, 2016*)

AACU has been working for years on the Liberal Education & America's Promise (LEAP) project and as part of that, they offer a series of institutes in the summer. The 2016 Institute on General Education and Assessment is June 4-8, 2016, in Boston. To attend, we must put together an application that is quite a bit of work. It was noted that the daunting application is a major barrier. It was argued that we have a lot of the information already created, such as the learning outcomes and mission statement. It was cited that we can send a team of 4 or 5 people. Kurt Toenjes, Melinda Tilton, and David Craig all indicated interest. It was noted that the Associate Dean of City College may be interested as well. Vice Provost Matt Redinger noted that this would be an excellent inclusion into our big assessment report due to NWCCU in Fall 2018.

B. Retention and General Education

1. **Gen Ed Guide for Advisors**
2. **Gen Ed Course Substitution Statement**

The two issues that came out of last week's meeting are that perhaps our Gen Ed is too constricting, especially for accelerated students, so the GEC may need to craft a substitution

statement for Gen Ed. Second, an advising guide for faculty advisors would be well received.

It was noted that there is a huge misconception on campus, that students should be advised to somehow *avoid* taking a course in a given Gen Ed category if they are a high level student. Becky Lyons, Director of the Advising Center, noted that they do have a lot of information to get students into honors sections of courses.

It was suggested that we do need a greater diversity of courses in some categories of Gen Ed. The real issue right now is that, due to last year's budget cuts, we don't have the staff to add any new Gen Ed courses.

It was cited that there is currently an effort underway at the University System two-year units to create math pathways, to direct students to the math they actually need in their program. It was agreed that our Gen Ed guide would ultimately be a listing of the recommended Gen Ed pathways students can take for given majors. The GEC could collect ideas from both faculty and staff advisors about Gen Ed courses which are most beneficial to majors, the goal of which is to better educate faculty advisors with this information. It was suggested that Committee members float this idea to their departments, and a follow up written request would then be issued by the Committee. Dr. Toenjes said he would work up the written request and circulate it to the members for review. We can gather some basic information from departments and then begin fleshing out the pathways with assistance from the faculty. This guide would not be a list of courses students must take, but rather one or more suggested courses. It was further suggested that the GEC should also connect with instructors of Gen Ed courses and ask them why a student should take a course and what majors the course fits best.

C. Current Assessment

The task has been passed off to the Deans, but nothing seems to be happening this year. Dr. Toenjes & Dr. Redinger will forward a request to the Deans. We don't want this task to come back to the GEC. Also, the data from last year still has not been received.

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.