

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

March 21, 2016

Present:	Melinda Tilton Matthew Queen Tom Regele Patricia Nichols Scott Harris Megan Thomas Tara Haupt (ex-officio)	Kurt Toenjes Brent Finger John Roberts Rosemarie Dugi Elizabeth Fullon Colin Buck (student) Florence Garcia (ex-officio)
Absent:	Don Wilathgamuwa Leanne Gilbertsen*	Jennifer Lynn*
		*excused
Guest:	Tami Haaland	

Melinda Tilton, Chair Alternate, called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m. in McMullen 305.

The minutes of February 22 were accepted as presented.

I. ITEM – FIRST READING

Item 46 Gen Ed Course: PHL 254 People and Politics. Submit for category V.B. Humanities.

Tami Haaland, Chair of English, Philosophy and Modern Languages, stated that this course was recently created and would provide an additional option to a very limited category in Gen Ed. There is a lot of pressure on Intro to Ethics (PHL 110). They are offering nine to eleven sections of it and this course would offer an alternative. Ana Diaz, instructor for the course, has been training on game theory and will be using it in this class. Basically, students will role play a given person, such as Socrates, for six weeks.

Kurt Toenjes arrived and took over chairing the meeting.

- Motion by Matt Queen, seconded by Melinda Tilton to **approve Item 46 and waive second reading.**

- Motion carried.

II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Assessment Report

Matt Redinger, Vice Provost

Kurt Toenjes distributed copies of our latest results from ETS. We are far behind in a good sample size. Over the last 3 years we have tested 275 students, which is what we should be testing in 1 year. In comparison to other 4-year schools that use ETS, our students scored very poorly on critical thinking. ETS does offer the option to build a list of 10 institutions we would like to compare with. Also, ETS has developed an unproctored online test now, so we should move toward making it required of all students. The issue, however, is that we need more than one assessment of Gen Ed.

Matt Redinger stated that he attended an AAC&U Gen Ed conference in February, and it was much better than the one he and Dr. Havens (former GEC chair) attended five years ago. The two big take-aways from that conference were using multiple measures to assess Gen Ed, and moving toward a four-year Gen Ed program. Several schools are now using a capstone for Gen Ed, in effect making Gen Ed span four years, as many MSUB students are already doing.

Dr. Redinger noted that we have a report due to NWCCU in Fall 2018 and we are in significant trouble in assessing, especially our Gen Ed program. One idea is to have faculty who teach major capstone courses fill out a rubric for each student that evaluates how the student met each of the applicable Gen Ed outcomes. The idea is not to add additional assignments to the major capstone, but to use the assignments and projects in that course to evaluate Gen Ed. We will not get every student covered on every area of Gen Ed, but overall, we will get all of the outcomes covered. This would be in addition to the ETS test, not replacing it.

The issue was raised as to getting faculty to participate. We tried a similar approach with the Gen Ed outcomes and faculty self-reporting the results of the whole class, not each student. It did not work at all. Dr. Redinger noted that we have no choice; we could lose our accreditation. It was noted that the COB has one faculty member designated for assessment of students' work, separate from the course instructor. This responsibility could be passed to different faculty across the university to share the workload.

It was suggested that another option would be student feedback. Simply asking the students what worked and what didn't in Gen Ed, and getting their criticism and suggestions would be very valuable. The Sciences Department does this in person in a small group, but a survey would also work. Colin Buck agreed to ask the Student Senate for feedback as well.

Dr. Redinger will build a rubric based on the Gen Ed outcomes for the next meeting.

B. AAC&U Summer 2016 Gen Ed & Assessment Institute

We asked for an extension to apply and were granted one, so we have been accepted and are on step two of the application at this time. Dr. Redinger noted that we are joining AAC&U next week. AAC&U surveyed employers recently and many of the skills needed by

employers come straight out of Gen Ed: oral communication, broad knowledge in arts and sciences, critical thinking, interpersonal communication, etc. It was noted that City College gets similar results from their employer surveys. We have to expand our definition of Gen Ed to include all these things that employers are looking for.

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.