

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

November 13, 2023

Present:	Mark Jacobson Melinda Tilton Emily Arendt Ana Diaz Jeff Willardson Chairsty Stewart Bryan Grove (ex-officio)	Jennifer Lodine-Chaffey Paul Pope Mara Pierce Jason Comer Daniel Charlton Eileen Wright
Absent:	Kecara Rhoades* Debra Schoenfeld	Daniel Willems

*excused

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. in LA 627.

I. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of October 9 were accepted as presented.

II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**A. Finalize Gen Ed Program Learning Outcome #9**

Old: Produce scholarly projects or creative works conforming to appropriate disciplinary methods

Revised: Utilize effective interpersonal skills to collaborate toward a common purpose

- Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Eileen Wright to **accept the new wording of outcome 9.**

It was noted that learning is on a continuum, so having “effective” in the outcome is not a good idea. We are trying to evaluate that continuum of learning.

- Motion carried.

- Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Mara Pierce to **remove “effective” from outcomes 8 and 9.**

- Motion carried.

The updated outcomes (italicized below) will be forwarded to the Academic Senate for approval.

General Education Programmatic Outcomes			
Upon completion of the General Education Program at MSUB, students will successfully be able to:			
Respect Diversity	Problem Solve	Think Critically	Communicate Effectively
1. Express the impact of inequity on the human experience 2. Synthesize multiple perspectives in contemporary and historical contexts	3. Use statistical or mathematical methods to solve problems 4. Use scientific methods to solve problems 5. Use quantitative and qualitative information to provide solutions to social and/or ethical problems	6. Locate and evaluate information from multiple sources 7. Synthesize evidence to construct logical arguments	<i>8. Apply communication strategies for specific purposes and audiences</i> <i>9. Utilize interpersonal skills to collaborate toward a common purpose</i>

B. Complete Course Mapping/Alignment

- BGEN 105 A & B do not have enough to use for assessment, so they will be removed.
- LIT 270, RLST 170, SPNS 150, FILM 160 are not offered in Fall semester.

C. Respect Diversity Assessment – Next Steps

1. Data Collection Updates

On this first try, especially, we cannot aim for perfection. We will learn as we go!

It was agreed that, for each instructor, we will request five student artifacts. So, if an instructor is teaching two sections of the same course, they must supply five artifacts. However, if two instructors are teaching two different sections of the same course, they must each supply five artifacts, for a total of ten for that course. Modality will not be a concern for now, but since we will get the section numbers for the course, we can include it in the data.

It was noted that if we are assessing some sections but not others of the same course, because some instructors say the course achieves the outcomes and some instructors don't, students need to know that. However, so far, that has been a very rare case. There are no limits on what programmatic outcomes a given course can achieve, but if a course in Gen Ed is not achieving any of the

programmatic outcomes, the GEC may need to consult with that Department. At the same time, courses can introduce or develop the outcomes, without achieving them.

It was cited that every member of the GEC will not have to review every student artifact. We will divide into teams to review them and then come together to share results. This will be done in the Spring semester.

2. Show & Tell: Qualtrics Form

The Qualtrics form was presented, and there was discussion about the term “rubric” to refer to the subject of a course. The survey form was updated to include “rubric/subject.” The instructor’s name will not be required, just the rubric/subject, course number, and section number. Also, Qualtrics does not allow for multiple files to be uploaded, so each must be uploaded separately.

3. Third & Final Letter to Chairs/Instructors

The third letter will go out December 4, with responses due by December 20. Each instructor will be asked to submit five student artifacts. It was noted the letter should make it clear each student artifact has to be uploaded separately, so faculty are prepared, not submitting them all together as one document.

4. Assessment Rotation Schedule

Since there are courses which are only offered in Spring, we need to create a rotation that assesses courses in both semesters. However, collecting the data in Fall and then reviewing it in Spring will work well for the GEC, so that is the plan for the next four years. Once we have the process working well, we can shift to Spring to cover those courses. The transition year 2026-27 will be a lot of work, but we will have had four Falls to smooth out the process.

Fall	Spring
Respect Diversity 2023	
Problem Solve 2024	
Think Critically 2025	
Communicate Effectively 2026	
	Respect Diversity 2027
	Problem Solve 2028
	Think Critically 2029
	Communicate Effectively 2030

D. General Education Narratives – Small Group Work

Advising has requested information on what to say to students about Gen Ed, to move away from negativity like “getting it out of the way.” It was noted that it would be lovely to have videos from both professors and students, talking about how a Gen Ed class changed the course of their careers.

The following were noted:

- Gen Ed is different, more involved, than high school content.
- If a student must take a given course because it’s the only one that fits into a schedule, still communicate the value of that “substitute” course.
- Relate Gen Ed to having a job: having a breadth of skills allows one to pivot to a new job when it becomes necessary, like during COVID.

- Gen Ed imparts skills beyond the job a student may be studying for.
- The foundational competencies of Gen Ed are things everyone needs: solving problems, being able to think critically to solve those problems, communicating with others, etc.
- Gen Ed allows you to have a flexible and nimble mind!

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.