

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

February 6, 2002

Present: Mark Hardt
 Randall Gloege
 Pat Holman
 Christina Sprague
 Sandie Rietz

Presiding: Mark Hardt, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. in the Madison Room of the SUB.

There was a quorum.

I. Cap on Gen Ed Credits

Sandie Rietz reported on the activities of the Writing Proficiency Committee. She stated that if the number of required Gen Ed credits is reduced to 30 or 31, the Writing Proficiency Committee will petition Provost Park for three of those funded credits for a writing course.

She also stated that the Writing Proficiency Committee discussed creating a capstone or portfolio course where students will pull together previously written pieces from earlier courses and revise them. This would, in turn, require courses within programs to increase the required writing in the program so the students would have materials to work with in the capstone course.

It was noted that if the Gen Ed credits were reduced to 30 or 31, the writing requirement could not be included in Gen Ed, therefore resulting in a two-stage Gen Ed program.

It was also cited that students need to be taught basic research styles earlier than their senior year in a capstone course.

It was then noted that an assessment (or capstone) is also necessary for the Gen Ed program. The writing portfolio course could serve as the capstone because it would not be strictly an English class. Rather, it would be an integrated writing course linking education and professional experience. Students would pull from all their classes (Gen Ed and courses in their major) to bring material for the portfolio course, thus bringing all their education to a measurable capstone.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, second by Sandie Rietz to **reduce the cap on General Education required credits to 31.**
- Motion carried.
- Motion by Pat Holman, second by Sandie Rietz that the General Education Committee **supports the Writing Proficiency Committee** and their idea of a capstone course that would integrate outcomes of General Education and departmental professional courses.
- Motion carried.

II. De-coupling

It was stated that in the future, the total number of eligible courses for Gen Ed needs to be reduced. Also, specifically Gen Ed courses that are integrated need to be created.

It was then cited that Performance Based Funding will greatly impact where the funding for such a program goes. Performance Based Funding works at cross-purposes to what the General Education Committee is trying to accomplish. The reduced number of courses and Performance Based Funding would work together to gut some departments of their funding.

The committee then composed this resolution:

RESOLUTION

The General Education Standing Committee of the Academic Senate resolves to:

1. Craft a new model of General Education
2. Reduce the total eligible courses for General Education

However, both of these objectives are in direct opposition with Performance Based Funding. Performance Based Funding works at cross-purposes to the reformation of General Education.

The resolution will be sent to the Academic Senate and the ASMSU-B.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be Monday, February 25, 2002 at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe