

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

March 27, 2002

Present: Mark Hardt Curt Kochner – *ex-officio*
 Randall Gloege St. John Robinson – *ex-officio*
 George Benedict Mary McNally – *ex-officio*
 Pat Holman
 Barb Pedula
 Ray Champ – student

Presiding: Mark Hardt, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. in the Bridger Room of the SUB.

There was a quorum.

It was noted that the exact Board of Regents requirements for General Education should be researched, so the committee will know what it has to work with.

A proposal was distributed containing the goals, limits, and shape of the General Education Program. This is a draft.

It was stated that the idea which was presented at previous meetings from the Writing Proficiency Committee that departments take on a senior level writing course which would be both a writing class and within the student's major will not work. This idea has been tried before and the departments simply don't do it. Writing Intensive courses were a failure.

It was also noted that at Bozeman, there is not a separate credit for science labs. The course itself includes the lab, so their General Education requirement is 30 credits, rather than 31. It was suggested that MSU-Billings do likewise and fold the lab credit into all science courses. Representatives from the Sciences Department will be asked to attend the next meeting for more information.

It was stated that a clear definition of the Cultural Diversity category is needed.

It was re-stated that double-dipping (using a course to fill both a Gen Ed requirement and a requirement in a program) is not a good idea and the General Education Committee voted that this policy will not continue in a previous meeting.

It was observed that MSU-Billings has a ninth category—Oral Skills—in addition to the eight provided by the Board of Regents, which are (1) Natural Science, (2) Social Science, (3) Mathematics, (4) English Composition, (5) Humanities, (6) Fine Arts, (7) History, and

(8) Cultural Diversity. It was noted that the Oral Skills category could be cut, and if departments would like those courses in their programs, they can require them.

The question of assessment was then raised. It was stated that the first 5 points on the proposal are what need to be assessed (see attached). It was then noted that point #1 should be eliminated because it is too vague. It was then stated that the remaining points will be assessed by the proposed Oversight Committee for General Education without necessarily using a numerical quantitative system of assessment. Point #5 on page one of the proposal was also re-written.

It was noted that the transferability of the Gen Ed Core in Montana should be a selling point. Students should be told that once they finish the core, they can transfer anywhere in Montana and their Gen Ed core will be accepted.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Barb Pedula, to accept the proposal as a working document.

- Motion carried.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by George Benedict, to accept, in principle, a second writing course to be included in the General Education Program.

- Motion carried.

- Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by George Benedict, to oppose the idea of having an assessment day.

- Motion carried.

It was decided that the Gen Ed Committee could present its ideas to the campus when they are prepared for input from the faculty.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 17, 2002 at 3:00 p.m.

At the next meeting:

- Exact BOR regulations for Gen Ed
- Input from Sciences Department about merging labs into courses

The meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe