

It was decided that the North West requirements for assessment of Gen Ed should be brought to the next meeting to find out what exactly the committee must do. If the requirements are vague, the committee has a great deal of latitude to work with.

One method of assessment the University could employ would be to clarify how Gen Ed courses fit into the Gen Ed Program and then demonstrate what is done with courses that do not fit the program.

The question was then raised as to how it will be proven that students accomplish the goals listed in the catalog. One suggestion was a “sophomore thesis” writing course wherein the students would assess Gen Ed courses. The Gen Ed Committee would read these papers; however, money and time are required for this solution. It was noted, though, that North West states assessment should be *qualitative*, not *quantitative*.

It was then noted that a mission statement or a statement of the philosophy of Gen Ed should be composed at the next meeting.

It was then noted that if the number of courses offered in the Gen Ed Program was reduced, departments would have to create courses students could take as electives. The departments would have to attract students since the students are no longer required to take some of the department’s courses as Gen Eds. It was then stated that if the number of courses offered as Gen Ed were cut, there would be a huge staffing program. Many students would be taking the same course, resulting in huge classes or multiple sections. A suggestion was offered that courses be capped, but ensure that enough Gen Ed courses are offered each year/semester so students could take another required course.

Goals of the next meeting (April 24):

- Discuss North West assessment requirements
- Write a Mission/Philosophy Statement of Gen Ed
- All committee members are asked to bring an undergraduate catalog

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe