

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

March 18, 2003

Present: Mark Hardt
James Nowlin

Michael Dennis
Squy Wallace

Absent: George Benedict
Randall Gloege – excused

John Cech – *ex-officio*
George White – *ex-officio*
Dan Zirker – *ex-officio*
Janie Park – *ex-officio*

Randy Rhine – *ex-officio*
Joe Michels – *ex-officio*
Curt Kochner – *ex-officio*

Presiding: Mark Hardt, Chair

Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 3:42 p.m. in CEHS 216.

The March 4 meeting minutes were approved.

I. Structure Definitions

It was noted that the definitions of the four parts of the structure are to be taken directly from the Matrix.

II. Objective

It was noted that since *dignity* and *humanity* were removed from the title, they should be in the Objectives. It was noted that the phrase “understanding of human dignity” should be added, so the Objectives would appear like so:

The objectives of Academic Foundation (General Education) are to help students develop and demonstrate an understanding of human dignity and what it means to be members of the global community. Students completing Academic Foundation will reflect upon the evolution of culture, and learn to identify and value responsible roles for the human being in the physical, social, and intellectual worlds.

- Motion by Michael Dennis, seconded by Squy Wallace **to approve the Objectives as they read above.**

- Motion carried.

III. Categories

It was cited that the current MSU-B categories can be condensed to fit the Board of Regents (BOR) categories.

<u>BOR Categories</u>		<u>MSU-B Proposed Categories</u>	
Natural Science (with labs)	6 cr.	English Composition	6 cr.
Social Science	6 cr.	Mathematics	3 cr.
Mathematics	3 cr.	Natural Science (with labs)	7 cr.
English Composition	3 cr.	Social Science	6 cr.
Humanities	3 cr.	History and Cultural Diversity	6 cr.
Fine Arts	3 cr.	Arts and Humanities	6 cr.
History	3 cr.		
Cultural Diversity	3 cr.		
TOTAL	30	TOTAL	34

It was cited that currently we do not have the largest Gen Ed Core. Some other Montana units require more than 37 credits.

It was also noted that currently, most of the Math courses in Gen Ed are more than 3 credits. Perhaps the Gen Ed Committee should meet with the Department to discuss alternatives.

- Motion by James Nowlin, seconded by Squy Wallace to **accept the Proposed MSU-B categories.**

- Motion carried.

IV. Capstone Course

It was noted that instead of having a 1 credit capstone in the Gen Ed Program, we could require a capstone in the department/program. In this course, the students would have to reflect on and demonstrate what they have learned in the Academic Foundations Program. It was also noted that if the capstone is offered through the department, it could be 3 credits, rather than 1. This would be a course like "What it Means to be a Scientist" or "What it means to be a Teacher."

It was noted that 3 credits for a capstone may be a difficult sell to the faculty. We should require a 1 credit capstone.

V. Upper Division Courses

It was cited that, so we don't lose the great diversity of the Gen Ed Program, we should continue to offer upper level Gen Ed courses. Student could, after completing the 34 credits of the Academic Foundation Program, take a few upper level Academic Foundation courses and receive a Minor in Liberal Studies.

It was noted that any prerequisites for these upper division courses should be checked carefully.

It was noted that a Minor in Liberal Studies would not have any additional costs and would not cut into any department or program.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna