

**Academic Foundations Committee
Minutes**

February 1, 2005

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Present: | Mark Hardt Connie Landis Abbas Heiat Emily Valenzuela (student) | Randall Gloege Susan Gilbertz Barb Pedula Lewis Rife (student) |
| Absent: | Noreen Lee – <i>excused</i> Carl Hanson – <i>ex-officio</i> John Cech – <i>ex-officio</i> George White – <i>ex-officio</i> Janie Park – <i>ex-officio</i> | Sandie Rietz – <i>excused</i> Tasneem Khaleel – <i>ex-officio</i> Randy Rhine – <i>ex-officio</i> Joe Michels – <i>ex-officio</i> Curt Kochner – <i>ex-officio</i> |
| Presiding: | Mark Hardt, Chair | |

Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 3:46 p.m. in the Madison room of the SUB.

The minutes of January 25 were accepted as presented.

I. Discussion/Action Items

A. Criteria for Course Inclusion/Exclusion

Criteria:

1. No university-level prerequisites
2. Appropriate for submitted Academic Foundations category description
3. Appropriate paperwork
4. Maintain academic integrity promoting intellectual growth
5. Appropriate for a diverse student population
6. Foundational course
7. Fits one or more Board of Regents mandated categories and/or our Academic Foundations Category
8. Academic merits of a course already determined by UCC
9. Course can be assessed as part of Academic Foundations matrix/program

Preferences:

1. Prefer a more basic, college entry-level course
2. Course covers what we want them to learn
3. Choose as many high-priority (as indicated by college) courses as possible

It was noted that a research writing course could be counted as three writing credits, but it could also count in the Information Literacy category. Would students be allowed to count the course in both categories? What would happen to the other three credits? It was decided that courses can only be submitted for one category, and students can only count a course in one category.

It was noted that if there is a shortage of courses in any category, the Committee can meet with departments about submitting more courses.

It was cited that the Committee must always keep in mind the staff-ability of all the courses submitted. If there are not faculty to teach enough sections of an Academic Foundations course, we will have many problems. It was suggested that the Committee meet with Tim Urbaniak, Chair of the UCC, and let him know some of these submitted courses will have massive staffing needs.

It was observed that the more faculty Academic Foundations requires, it is possible less upper division electives will be offered because those faculty will be teaching Academic Foundations.

B. Assessment

It was noted that many current students don't finish their general education until their senior year. This presents the problem of when to administer the post-Academic Foundations assessment. It was suggested that the Committee meet with people, such as Jane Howell and Randy Rhine, who have been in on accreditation reviews. We could ask them what other universities are doing that we are not. Another suggestion noted that we have to show that any possible course combination in Academic Foundations will meet the matrix. Doing that will force the assessment to the faculty, i.e., let the Art people decide how to assess art, and the English people decide how to assess writing courses.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.