

**Academic Foundations Committee  
Minutes**

October 25, 2005

<b>Present:</b>	Randall Gloege Susan Gilbertz Noreen Lee Chelsey McCollum (student)	Mark Hardt Connie Landis Abbas Heiat Curtis Sherrodd (student)
<b>Absent:</b>	Dan Gretch Sandie Rietz – <i>excused</i> Russ Lord – <i>ex-officio</i> John Cech – <i>ex-officio</i> Mary Susan Fishbaugh – <i>ex-officio</i> George White – <i>ex-officio</i>	Bruce Brumley – <i>excused</i> Tasneem Khaleel – <i>ex-officio</i> Kirk Lacy – <i>ex-officio</i> Joe Michels – <i>ex-officio</i> Curt Kochner – <i>ex-officio</i>
<b>Guests:</b>	Emily Valenzuela (student)	Seth Berglee (student)
<b>Presiding:</b>	Mark Hardt, Chair	

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Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 3:49 p.m. in COE 304.

The minutes of October 18 were accepted as presented.

I. Discussion/Action Items

A. Submissions

It was noted that if the Committee is going to entertain interdisciplinary courses, we need to have some guidelines about meeting more than one Academic Foundations category, credits, and so on. It was agreed that a policy should be written later.

Susan Gilbertz reported the results of the subcommittee's work with Category V. Arts and Humanities, Humanities subcategory.

**Item 11** PHIL 115 Ethics

**Item 11.a** PHIL 117 Philosophies of Life

**Item 11.b** PHIL 314 Business Ethics

**Item 11.c** ENGL/PHIL 240 The Bible as Literature

**Item 11.d** ART 132 Art History Survey

**Item 11.e** COMT 150 Introduction to Theatre and Performance

**Item 11.f** ENGL 160 Reading and Responding to Literature

**Item 11.g** HON 181 The Ancient and Medieval Worlds

**Item 11.h** HON 182 The Renaissance and Modern Worlds

The subcommittee agreed that PHIL 115 and 117 are good fits. The subcommittee rejected PHIL 314 because it is an upper division course and it is specialized. The subcommittee was split on ENGL/PHIL 240 as to whether it should be approved. ART 132 was fine.

The subcommittee had issues with COMT 150 because they only cover three plays in the semester. The course doesn't seem to have much "meat" to it. It was noted that the course title implies performance, yet there is no performance in the syllabus (which lists the course title as "Introduction to Theatre").

The subcommittee agreed that ENGL 160 was a good fit for Academic Foundations.

The two Honors courses once again presented a problem. HON 181 and 182 are fine humanities courses, but the Honors Program also wants these two courses together to meet the Fine Arts category, as well as Humanities. The two courses are not very strong on the arts. Some research was done, and it appears that there used to be more fine arts in the course, but it has slipped out, probably because of budgetary issues. It was cited that the Honors Program also wants the four courses (HIST 106 and 107 and HON 181 and 182) to, combined, meet the writing requirement because the students write so much in the courses.

- Motion by Noreen Lee, seconded by Connie Landis to accept PHIL 115 (Item 11), PHIL 117 (Item 11.a), ART 132 (Item 11.d), and ENGL 160 (Item 11.f) without question.

- Motion carried.

It was noted that two courses, PHIL 314 and ENGL 301 (Business Communication), are required by the College of Business but it is unclear why they must be 300-level courses. The upper level could be required by AACSB accreditation rules, but it was noted that those rules tend to be vague. It was noted that these two courses are tailored to a specific audience. It was suggested that someone from the Committee visit with Mary McNally, the COB's accreditation contact, about whether the courses must be 300-level.

It was observed that ENGL/PHIL 240 is too narrow and focused on only one subject. It was noted that this course seems to fit Fine Arts better than Humanities. It was stated that this course should really be about comparing different translations of the Bible and how those are interpreted in order to be a humanities course, but we do not have the staff qualified to teach such a course, nor do we have the funding to get such staff. This is the best we can offer, so we have to be careful using the "narrow focus" argument.

- Motion by Susan Gilbertz, seconded by Randall Gloege to accept ENGL/PHIL 240 (Item 11.c) with no conditions.

- Motion carried with one opposed and one abstention.

It was stated that if the title of COMT 150 includes performance, that course should be in Fine Arts, not Humanities. Also, the syllabus indicates there is no performance in the course. It was cited that perhaps the real reason we are unresolved on this course is because it is taught online.

- Motion by Noreen Lee, seconded by Randall Gloege to deny COMT 150 (Item 11.e) in Humanities subcategory, but recommend that the department resubmit the course in Fine Arts.

- Motion carried.

HON 181, 182, and PHIL 314 will be tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.