

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

April 13, 2011

Present:	Bernie Quetchenbach Neil Suits Mark Fenderson Elizabeth Fullon Becky Lyons (ex-officio)	Melinda Tilton Matt Redinger Michael Scarlett Brent Roberts Tasneem Khaleel (ex-officio)
Absent:	Kurt Toenjes Neil Jussila Tom Regele – <i>excused</i>	Mike Havens
Presiding:	Matt Redinger, Chairperson	

Matt Redinger called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m. in the Bridger room.

The minutes of March 23 were accepted as presented.

I. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Reworking of MSUB Outcomes

It was noted that NWCCU said our outcomes were not up to snuff, but this recommendation was regarding all programs, not just Gen Ed.

It was cited that hardly any universities use “English” to describe their writing category. Most use the terms written or oral or both. We could change our category title to “Written Communication.” It was noted that we have an oral component, but it’s basically hidden in the Information Literacy category. It was suggested we change the name of the Information Literacy category to “Communication & Information Literacy.” If the name was changed, COMT 110 Interpersonal Communication could be moved from the Social Sciences—where the course is languishing—to the Communication & Information Literacy category. It was noted that if COMT 110 is moved, the course description and content will need to be evaluated to make sure it fits and staffing issues will need to be discussed. It was noted that we don’t have to offer a large number of sections of COMT 110 if we don’t have the staffing, because students are already taking the other courses in Information Literacy.

Dean Khaleel noted that if COMT 110 is moved from Social Sciences, the MUS Gen Ed Council should be notified and/or consulted. It was suggested that we can make category name changes now and come back to the COMT 110 issue in the Fall.

- Motion by Melinda Tilton, seconded by Mark Fenderson to **change the name of the Information Literacy subcategory to Communication & Information Literacy.**

- Motion carried.

It was noted that previously we had discussed changing the first outcome under Fine Arts. It currently stands as “Demonstrate an understanding of insight in the fine arts, i.e., the role that insight plays in the face of folly: stereotypes, cliché, etc.”

- Motion by Bernie Quetchenbach, seconded by Melinda Tilton to **change the first outcome under Fine Arts to “Demonstrate cultural awareness through fine arts at the local, regional, national, and international levels.”**

- Motion carried.

B. Noel Levitz Lunch Today

Dr. Redinger stated that the consultant recommended we think about offering a workshop for faculty on advising for Gen Ed. The consultant has evidence that some faculty may be reluctant to advise students regarding their Gen Ed course selections. Becky Lyons, Interim Director of the Advising Center, noted that students move from Advising Center advisors to faculty advisors at different times, depending on their major department. Some are as early as the student's first semester, while others are later. It was cited that faculty advise students on the courses they need for their major, courses they would be in trouble without taking, but other categories are left to the student. Perhaps the students need some training.

It was noted that many students are very dependent on their advisor to select all their classes, and some are even referred back to the Advising Center for courses not in their major area. It was cited that there are issues with students being confused by rubrics. GPHY, for example, looks like it would apply in the Natural Sciences category, but there are also GPHY courses in the Social Sciences and Cultural Diversity categories.

C. The Freshman Seminar & Gen Ed

It was cited that if we changed the name of the English category to Written Communication, the Freshman Seminar course would fit there.

It was noted that the percentage of students who took the seminar who are already registered for Fall 2011 is 45%. The whole student body is at 39%.

It was stated that we need more data before deciding if the Freshman Seminar was successful at retaining students. We should also compare the Freshman Seminar data to students who took the old A&SC 101.

Ms. Lyons noted that if a student asks the Advising Center if the Freshman Seminar is required, they tell the student it is not required but recommended.

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.