

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

September 22, 2010

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

Matt Redinger called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. in the Missouri room.

The minutes of March 10, April 9, and September 2 were accepted as presented.

I. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Gen Ed Course Application Process Review

It was noted that it is possible a course could meet the category description and objectives of a given Gen Ed category, but not be appropriate for Gen Ed. This is why the Committee needs to discuss each and every proposed course, to prevent such course situations.

It was noted that there is a course in Psychology which is going to be removed from Gen Ed, so the Chair review process does appear to work. However, it was cited that the GEC should still have oversight of the whole program and ultimately, may remove courses. We need to be careful that we are not making the impression that the GEC is trying to overrule faculty and Departments.

B. CLA, MAPP, and Assessment Testing

It was stated that CLA (Collegiate Learning Assessment) is an alternative to MAPP (Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress). CLA is a 90 minute essay test, and they claim they can score the students' answers using a quantitative and nationally normed method. Many schools have begun using it for their assessment. It is possible that if Bozeman or Missoula uses CLA, we may have to use it to as part of the "one university" concept. It was noted that MAPP is more comprehensive than CLA, and MAPP also allows for MSU Billings to add our own questions. The CLA test is taken only once, while MAPP uses a pre- and post-test system. CLA is the most expensive because of their scoring method, and MAPP is the cheapest.

It was noted that MSU Billings was supposed to be purchasing MAPP this past summer, and the Fall 2010 students were to be the first group to take the pre-test. Dr. Redinger stated that he would research what has happened with MAPP and report to the Committee.

C. The Purpose of General Education

It was stated that we may need to have a discussion about the purpose of Gen Ed and how we can assess the entire program. The Chair reviews are an appealing solution, but we need to talk about what Gen Ed should do and where it is going.

It was cited that the Purpose of Gen Ed is a topic we left in the Spring and have not yet returned to. Now is the time. We should be aware of what the Montana University System thinks Gen Ed should be, and also the other units, such as Bozeman and Missoula, but it is up to us to decide what our Gen Ed is.

It was stated that when we begin getting numbers from the MAPP assessment, we need to be able to do something with them. Having the discussion of the overarching goal of Gen Ed may prepare us for that data.

D. GEC Meeting Time

The next meeting will be October 20, at 2:30 instead of 3:00.

The meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.