

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

March 24, 2014

Present:	Mark Jacobson Melinda Tilton Mike Havens Patricia Nichols Scott Harris TyRee Jenks	Bernie Quetchenbach Kurt Toenjes Jodi Lightner Rosemarie Dugi Elizabeth Fullon
Absent:	Rhonda Dillman* Tom Regele*	Jennifer Lynn* Leanne Gilbertsen*
	*excused	
Guest:	Cheri Johannes	

Kurt Toenjes called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. in McMullen 305.

The minutes of February 24 were accepted as presented.

I. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Implications of COMPASS Recommendation

Guest: Cheri Johannes, Registrar

Dr. Johannes stated that since she and her staff are the ones who explain policies to students, and often their parents, she wanted to discuss what policies are being changed and possible implications of those changes. She noted that there are 100 to 200 students per year who test out of WRIT 101. Most of them are through COMPASS, but some are through CLEP or other processes. Students who test out of WRIT 101 still register for a course, and the FTE linked to that course goes to the Department of English, Philosophy and Modern Languages. That is a big chunk of possible funding.

Dr. Johannes also noted that our catalog states that students can challenge almost any course. If the COMPASS test can no longer be used to challenge WRIT 101, the English department will need another way for students to challenge. Also, we need to set an effective date for any new policy.

It was noted that the Committee agreed that students will not be stopped from taking WRIT 101, even if their placement exam results indicate they could go into a 200-level writing course. Students will likely view the 200-level class as a punishment.

It was cited that the Committee's primary issue is the COMPASS test. The exam tests whether students can recognize "good writing," not whether students can generate good writing.

If the COMPASS test is truly the issue, then the Committee may need to look at a back-up plan for students who do wish to challenge any writing course, perhaps an essay test of some sort. Then the issue becomes who will grade these 100 to 200 tests per year.

It was cited that City College students who wish to challenge a writing course are required to register in the course—on the 15th day the Registrar swaps them to a challenge course—and those students must complete the three major writing class projects and take the final exam. Dr. Johannes noted that this is a process unique to City College.

Dr. Johannes noted that many MSUB students transfer to another institution, rather than completing a degree here. An issue has developed where students who do not challenge WRIT 101, but jump straight to a 200-level writing class, are sometimes required by other institutions to go back and take a 100-level writing course because they do not have one transcribed. This may or may not be a concern of the Committee.

It was agreed that Kurt Toenjens and Bernie Quetchenbach will visit with the English faculty about possible solutions.

B. Update Catalog Writing Policy as needed/WR Designation Removal

The GEC will recommend to the Academic Senate that the entire writing policy, along with the WR designations, be removed from the catalog.

Writing Requirements

Students who intend to graduate with a baccalaureate degree are required to have passed at least three courses with a WR indicator. WRIT 101 is required. The second course must be one of the following: WRIT 201, WRIT 220, WRIT 122, or WRIT 121. The third course must have a WR indicator and be selected in consultation with an advisor. The WR indicates that the course requires at least one extensive and evaluated writing assignment. To identify these courses refer to the Course Descriptions section (see page XX).

In addition to passing at least three WR courses, each student is required to undertake and successfully complete a writing project as determined by their major department(s). The writing project will be evaluated on the following skill categories:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| ◆ Audience Awareness | ◆ Mechanics |
| ◆ Clarity | ◆ Organization |
| ◆ Content | ◆ Conciseness |
| ◆ Development of an Idea | ◆ Originality |
| ◆ Purpose | ◆ Reflectivity |

Additional categories may be added by the departments. For more specific information about the writing project, students should contact the department chair in their major(s) or their faculty advisor.

C. ETS Testing Update: Finalize schedule of testing dates for Spring 2014

After Art is added, the list will be sent out to the GEC, and possibly all faculty as well.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.