

**General Education Committee  
Minutes**

April 21, 2014

<b>Present:</b>	Mark Jacobson Kurt Toenjes Leanne Gilbertsen Rosemarie Dugi Elizabeth Fullon Becky Lyons (ex-officio)	Melinda Tilton Jennifer Lynn Patricia Nichols Scott Harris TyRee Jenks Matt Redinger (ex-officio)
<b>Absent:</b>	Bernie Quetchenbach* Mike Havens* Jodi Lightner	Rhonda Dillman Tom Regele*

\*excused

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Kurt Toenjes called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. in the Missouri room.

The minutes of March 24 were accepted as presented.

I. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

**Item 63.b** HON 281 The American Intellectual Heritage (1620-1877). Delete course.

**Item 63.c** HON 282 The American Intellectual Heritage (1877-present). Delete course.

Items 63.b and 63.c were accepted with no comments.

II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

**A. Issue with Gen Ed Course Proposals**

It was noted that recently, History and Honors wanted to add an existing course to the Gen Ed core. The dean shot the proposal down and it never made it to the GEC. The issue is, the Gen Ed Committee has purview to decide the appropriateness of courses for Gen Ed, not deans.

**B. ETS Testing Update**

Once again, our testing participation rate is very low. Even with the promise of the \$25 gift card, many students did not stay for the testing. In the future, we may have to consider making the ETS test a requirement of graduation. Oregon does this through a no-fee course, and the student's major also has some sort of assessment within the course. At MSUB, our best choice may be an online version of this no-fee course.

Timing is also important, both with students and faculty. Students are so overwhelmed by the end of the semester, asking them to take another test that is optional means many opt out. Faculty often put off making time in their courses to add the ETS test, and end up not doing it. There is also the issue of anonymity. If we tell our students they will be anonymous and then the first questions they see on the test are demographics, the students feel misled.

We needed about 400 students tested, and we're only going to get 150, at most. We need earlier buy-in from the faculty. We should remind people in August that we will be doing this again.

### **C. Writing Policy and Writing Intensive (WR) Courses**

The Senate and Provost approved the removal of the policy and WR indicators. They have been removed from the 2015-2017 catalog.

### **D. Continued Discussion of COMPASS Test Issues and Writing Courses**

Dr. Toenjes reported that he met with writing faculty and they would really like all incoming students to write an essay, and that essay would be used to place students in writing courses. However, the issue with this is the amount of time and staffing needed to grade about 800 essays. The writing faculty are also seeing an increase in the number of students who have tested into WRIT 101 but who really should be in WRIT 095.

We have to have a way for students to challenge our writing courses, and we need an acceptable test for placing students; one cannot be fixed without the other. The COMPASS test has a writing component called e-Write we might find useful. We need to find out the cost of adding this component, however.

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.