

**General Education Committee  
Minutes**

February 13, 2019

<b>Present:</b>	Bernie Quetchenbach Emily Arendt Josh Hill Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)	Melinda Tilton Cori Day Lance Mouser
<b>Absent:</b>	Tien Chih* Matt Queen* John Roberts* Rebecca Muller	Jason Comer* Tom Regele* Leanne Gilbertson* Megan Thomas*

\*excused

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Melinda Tilton called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. in the SUB Bridger room.

The minutes of December 5 were accepted as presented.

I. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

**A. Honors Course Discussion**

The Honors Director has asked to once again pilot their Communication and Research course for a second year. The Committee took issue with the original proposal a year ago because the Honors course covers basically the same content as LSCI 125. The Gen Ed Committee has also received direction from the Senate on reducing the number of offerings in Gen Ed. Advisors can always substitute an Honors course for a Gen Ed. It was further noted that the state-wide CCN database will not allow us to have two courses with the same outcomes.

While the GEC supports the Honors program and its growth, this course is misleading to students and unethical for the course duplication. A memo to the Honors Director will be sent, recommending Honors approach the Library about collaborating.

II. ASSESSMENT UPDATE/VICE PROVOST REPORT

Dr. Balter-Reitz, Vice Provost, noted that she is concerned that a policy would be written that includes a specific instrument—a specific company name—and we may not want to commit to this single product. At this time, student assessment fees coming in every year are not enough to cover

the cost of the ETS test. The account will essentially be out of money in about three years, if we continue with ETS. Creating a policy where students are required to take some kind of assessment test is a fine idea, but a specific name is best avoided.

It was noted that we are moving in the direction of multi-modal assessments, but we are not there yet. There is also the issue of faculty review of those assessments. While we would require all students submit to our assessments, we could sample the results and have a rotating faculty group review them. Dr. Balter-Reitz noted that she would much rather use the assessment fee funds to pay faculty for this purpose, than to buy ETS tests.

It was suggested that we create our own test, which would be directly based on the Gen Ed outcomes we are rewriting. There may even be tests available through AAC&U. AAC&U also does a lot of research on what employers are looking for in graduates. Borrowing their research would be a great time saver.

The Committee has also discussed using an ePortfolio to allow students to collect artifacts, along with a reflection piece for each, from each of their Gen Ed courses. At this time, eLearning is looking into an ePortfolio that meets our needs better than the current D2L product.

### III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS continued

#### **B. Outcomes Revision**

We set a deadline of February for feedback from Department Chairs. We have received none so far. A reminder will be sent. Collaboration on the outcomes is essential, because we didn't get it the last time we wrote the outcomes.

We need outcomes based on the Gen Ed purpose statement and what our graduates should leave with, not based on the courses in the category.

It was agreed that the March meeting will be a work session for outcomes revision. A Box has been set up online, so please submit any notes or ideas about the outcomes there. The Box will also contain the "Creating Outcomes" document, as well as the MUS Core outcomes and the AAC&U value rubrics.

It was noted that there is no community of Gen Ed instructors. Many of them are part-time, but we also have no way of contacting even full-time instructors except through Department Chairs. It seems like the people teaching in Gen Ed should be talking about it! Dr. Balter-Reitz noted that she might be able to create a list-serve of Gen Ed instructors.

It would be great if the GEC could send the final draft of the outcomes to the Gen Ed instructors for review, rather than just asking the Chairs to forward.

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.