



**General Education Committee
Minutes**

April 20, 2021

Present:	Bernie Quetchenbach Jason Comer Mara Pierce Jeff Willardson Brian Gurney	Melinda Tilton Emily Arendt Leanne Gilbertson Cori Day Lance Mouser
Absent:	Tien Chih Matt Queen Laura Gittings-Carlson (ex-officio) *excused	Josh Hill Megan Thomas*
Guest:	Anne Cole	

Melinda Tilton called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. via Webex.

I. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 16 were accepted as presented.

II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Final Review of Gen Ed Program Outcomes

The Committee worked with feedback from a number of groups to synthesize the following:

General Education Programmatic Outcomes			
Upon completion of the General Education Program at MSUB, students will successfully be able to:			
Respect Diversity	Problem Solve	Think Critically	Communicate Effectively
1. Express the impact of inequity on the human experience 2. Synthesize multiple perspectives to describe human behavior, ideas, institutions, or cultural forms in contemporary and historical contexts	3. Use statistical or mathematical methods to solve problems 4. Use scientific methods to solve problems 5. Use quantitative and qualitative information to provide solutions to social and/or ethical problems	6. Locate and evaluate information from multiple sources 7. Synthesize evidence to construct logical arguments	8. Apply effective communication strategies for specific purposes and audiences 9. Produce scholarly projects or creative works conforming to appropriate disciplinary methods

The goal of programmatic outcomes is to provide an easier way to think about and assess the Gen Ed program. We are not getting rid of the categories or the category outcomes. Once the Committee is ready to distribute them, these outcomes will be shared with departments for additional feedback before a final vote by the GEC to forward the final outcomes on to Academic Senate.

It was noted that there does not seem to be equity between math and science and the rest of the things that this university does. The references to creative work are more vague. Language has also been added to the Respect Diversity pillar to reflect awareness rather than action—which will be difficult to assess, in the end. Assessment of 9 outcomes instead of 30 will surely be easier.

It is not intended that every Gen Ed course will meet all of these outcomes. Rather, the whole program is to meet these outcomes. However, faculty can incorporate as many of the program outcomes as is appropriate into their courses.

- The Committee agreed by unanimous consent that these outcomes are finalized.

B. Close the Loop Letter to Department Chairs (Biennial Review)

The letter (draft attached to these minutes) will be sent to Chairs along with the new program outcomes. It will go out this week, so they can be aware the Committee will be asking for their review of the program outcomes in the Fall.

C. Next Steps

The Committee will not be working over the summer. In the Fall, the following will be the next steps:

- Vote on final program outcomes and forward them to Academic Senate
- Revisit the category outcomes

- Revisit criteria for new Gen Ed courses
- Roll out/messaging for new Gen Ed program outcomes
- Assessment of the program outcomes
- How to divvy up the work of assessment

Other collaborations with the HIPs taskforce and the strategic plan 1.4 subgroup will also continue, especially once the Center for Teaching and Learning gets up and running.

The question was raised about standardized tests for Gen Ed. It was responded that we stopped using the ETS test due to the high cost. We will have to write our own if we wish to use a test.

The Committee was congratulated for the great work they did this year!

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.

To: Chairs of General Education Course-offering Departments

From: Emily Arendt, Melinda Tilton, Co-Chairs
General Education Committee

RE: General Education Courses Review/Outcomes Revision

On behalf of the General Education Committee, we'd like to thank you for the time and effort you and your department invested in last spring's biennial review. As a result of your work, the data gathered was more useful and meaningful than in years past. The data submitted for every general education course was reviewed and evaluated by committee members, who reported their findings to the committee as a whole. For the vast majority of General Education courses, the data confirmed and demonstrated the appropriateness of current GE category designations. Occasionally, however, courses were missing data.

Consistent with the ruling of the Academic Senate, all syllabi for General Education courses must contain the General Education purpose statement AND the corresponding category outcomes. This is a very important step in helping our students understand the purpose and value of these courses to their future success. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this important mission.

The General Education Committee is in the final stages of developing Program Outcomes for our General Education curriculum. In order to better communicate with students and assess the program as a whole, the committee will be proposing a series of programmatic outcomes. Although these will not replace the existing categories and category-level learning outcomes, it is our hope that a more streamlined set of learning goals will enable us to better assess student success. We have attached a draft of the outcomes we hope students will have achieved when their Gen Ed coursework has been completed. We will continue seeking feedback and refining these outcomes. The committee would encourage you to share these with your faculty and share your input with us. In early September we will send out the final list of program outcomes for a final round of feedback, before taking them to the Academic Senate for approval.

We deeply appreciate the dedication of everyone teaching general education courses and their contributions to ensuring a high-quality education for all our students. Thank you!

EA/MT/rjrm