



**General Education Committee
Minutes**

February 9, 2026

Present: Melinda Tilton
Mara Pierce
Karen Washburn
Eileen Wright
Hope Dewell Gentry
Joseph Bryan
Eric Gilbertsen

Absent: Carly Waddoups
Emily Arendt*
Jason Comer*
Ryan Butler*
Jennifer Lodine-Chaffey
Leigh Ann Ruggiero
Hashini Herath*
A.J. Otjen*

*excused

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. in LA 627.

I. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of January 26 were accepted as presented.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The COLS 108 call went out this week. Encourage your colleagues to apply.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Think Critically Assessment

After last month's meeting, we received two more responses with artifacts, and one more submitted today, for a total of 19 courses out of 54. Committee members were assigned to these artifacts.

It was noted that some of the wording in the rubric for learning outcome 6 might need to be clarified. Remember that both members of each two-person team enter their scores in the Qualtrics, so we have multiple data points.

It was agreed all assessments should be completed by Friday, February 27, 2026.

B. Increasing Compliance with Artifact Collection

It was suggested that the Committee meet with Department Chairs to give them the pitch about why this is important, that we are not assessing faculty's teaching, and that this process is for the betterment of General Education. These meetings should happen both at the beginning of the year and throughout the semester. We could even give out swag, such as vinyl stickers with the Gen Ed logo. Since the course map for Gen Ed needs updating, we could ask the Chairs at the beginning of the year.

It was noted that our country's current political climate may be contributing to a lack of responses. If someone is worried about themselves and their family being detained, assessment of Gen Ed is a pretty low priority.

Another suggestion was an assessment day, where everyone who teaches Gen Ed courses in the category being assessed gets together, with refreshments, and completes the assessments together.

C. Close the Loop Letter and Accreditation Concerns

With so few results this year, we will not have a lot to report. More importantly, NWCCU wants us to do more with our data, but we do not remove courses that don't meet a given criteria. We can't ask instructors to change their courses based on our rubric.

Since the feedback received told us that faculty and/or Chairs won't read the close the loop letter if it's long, we could instead post a full report somewhere and link to it in the letter. Those who actually want to know will read it.

It has been suggested that we start the year with a fun training for all Gen Ed instructors, where people are reminded of the value of Gen Ed and how assessment can support it. Reminders about including the Gen Ed Learning Outcomes in the syllabus and artifact submission would be a part of this. Then, a celebration at the end of the year, where we applaud the work our colleagues are doing and the work our students are doing.

It was noted that the history and explanation of this assessment process should be posted to the Gen Ed Committee website.

The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.