



**General Education Committee
Minutes**

September 21, 2026

Present:	Andrea Garza	Jennifer Lodine-Chaffey
	Melinda Tilton	Hope Dewell Gentry
	Emily Arendt	Mara Pierce
	Leigh Ann Ruggiero	Matt Peisen
	Hashini Herath	Ariel FitzGerald
	Karen Washburn	Eric Gilbertsen
	Eileen Wright	Bryan Grove (ex-officio)
	Kathleen Thatcher (ex-officio)	

Absent: Jason Comer*
*excused

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. in LA 627.

I. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR 2026-2027

Jennifer Lodine-Chaffey nominated Melinda Tilton for Chair, and Hope Dewell Gentry seconded.

There were no other nominees.

Melinda Tilton was elected Chair.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 13 were accepted as presented.

III. REPORTS

A. Presentation at Chairs Retreat (8/24/26)

Ms. Tilton presented to the Department Chairs to rally support for completing the assessment this Fall, since we had a big drop in participation last year. The response was good and several people contacted her with additional questions. It was noted that Dual Enrollment instructors teaching Gen Ed courses also need to add the Purpose Statement to their syllabus.

B. Communicate Effectively Training (9/1/26)

There was plenty of good discussion on learning outcomes 7 & 8. No one had concerns about learning outcome 7 (Apply communication strategies for specific purposes and audiences), but learning outcome 8 (Utilize interpersonal skills to collaborate toward a common purpose) would be assessed through a classroom interactions or group activity. Many of these activities do not result in an artifact that can be submitted to the GEC.

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Program Learning Outcome 8: Rubric and artifacts

We do not want to generate additional work for Gen Ed instructors by having them create an assignment that would demonstrate learning outcome 8. We have discussed that, in the future, the assessment process will move to the instructors of Gen Ed courses, rather than the GEC. Perhaps we pilot that model with learning outcome 8 and have the instructors fill out a Qualtrics built from the assessment rubric. It was suggested that, in order to be consistent, we could have the instructors do the assessments for both 7 and 8. It was also suggested that we eliminate outcome 8, since it is so difficult to assess. It was agreed that learning outcome 8 will stay and a subcommittee will be formed to review the rubric: Melinda Tilton, Emily Arendt, and Hope Dewell Gentry. We also need to clarify what we need those instructors to do to assess their course's achievement of learning outcome 8. Information about this new assessment process will need to be sent out early in the semester, so those instructors are aware and can ask questions.

B. Assessment Rationale for Gen Ed Committee Webpage

"Sister" institutions was changed to "peer" institutions. This will be presented to Senate before being posted to the Committee's webpage.

C. Gen Ed Courses No Longer Offered

The Advising Center raised the question of courses being listed in Gen Ed that are rarely offered, perhaps only in the summer or to specific groups, or never offered. These courses should not be listed if students can't take them. The Committee will consider a policy to remove courses that haven't been offered in a set amount of time.

D. Fall 2026 Communicate Effectively Assessment

A communication will be put together for learning outcome 8, since it needs to go out early. This will be ready for the October 19 meeting. The Qualtrics will also be prepped, once the rubric is revised by the subcommittee.

Senate Chair Suzette Nynas has voiced her support for making the assessment process required of all Gen Ed instructors.

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.