

**General Education Committee  
February 12, 2015 Minutes**

**Began 12:30 p.m.**

**Adjourn 1:25 p.m.**

Present: Dr. Courtney Vahlberg, Mary Turner, Anita Williams, Ernest Gobert, Haifeng Ji, Catherine Kinyon, Dr. Kathy Wheat, Dr. Janet Perry, Pamela Stout, Brent Noel

Absent: Dr. Max Simmons, Dr. Glenne' Whisenhunt, Greg Gardner, Darby Johnsen, Jay Ramanjulu, Julie Rice-Rollins

The first item of business was to review the minutes from the November 2014 meeting. Brent made a motion to approve the minutes, which Pamela seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously, whereupon Anita noted that she was not present at the November meeting (she was listed as attending). The members then voted unanimously to accept the minutes with that correction.

Next, the committee considered its recommendation based on FY14 Gen Ed assessment results (see attached). Courtney reported that she had sent the recommendation to Glenne', but had received no feedback from her, which Courtney interpreted as approval of the recommendation. Courtney also presented the proposed recommendation at the Student Learning Council in the January 2015 Prep and Planning Week. The Council had no changes to make to the recommendation, but noted that any money needed to implement the recommendation would have to come from each division's existing budget. The committee would have to find a way to garner support from the Deans and then have them identify people with an interest in critical thinking from each division.

Brent commented that it is difficult to teach content to students because they don't know how to think. Kathy mentioned that Steven Crawford had spoken to the Council of State Superintendents (COSS) and encouraged them to partner with higher education to improve critical thinking skills. There was some discussion about getting people, including some faculty, to buy into the importance of critical thinking and to support those efforts. Janet suggested bringing in a speaker during fall Prep and Planning week to address critical thinking. Kathy added that adding spoofs to make the topic more fun and less threatening might be helpful.

Courtney made a motion to accept the recommendation as it is written. Pamela seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The recommendation will be forwarded to Dr. Aquino for his approval, and then on to Dr. Perry.

Finally, the committee looked at a rubric that Pamela had begun working on to assess the new Human Heritage, Culture, and Institutions (HHCI) outcome. The committee looked at the subcomponents of the rubric. Brent began the discussion by asking how major cultural issues would be determined. Pamela said that she pulled these components from the General Education website. She asked how many subcomponents there should be and what kind of rating system to use. Courtney said that she was looking for a way for the assessment team to establish competence. As the meeting wound down, she encouraged Pamela to work on the first subcomponent and to think about how to define competence.

Courtney then made a motion to adjourn. Brent seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Attachment

General Education

FY14 Assessment Recommendation – 3<sup>rd</sup> Draft, Nov. 13, 2014

We encourage faculty to evaluate their course assignments to meet higher-level critical thinking skills. To this end, we recommend that OCCC start a series of conversations in each division about what critical thinking means and about how to teach and assess it.

- This would begin with developing expertise in each division by sending at least one faculty member per division to a national meeting on critical thought (e.g., the International Conference on Critical Thinking and Educational Reform held each July in Berkeley, CA).