

General Education Committee Minutes
February 11, 2016

Began 12:30 p.m.

Adjourned 1:25 p.m.

Present: Dr. Jeff Anderson, Ernest Gobert, Haifeng Ji, Catherine Kinyon, Michael Machiorlatti, Dr. Janet Perry, Dr. Max Simmons, Dana Tuley-Williams, Dr. Kathy Wheat, and Dr. Courtney Vahlberg

Absent: Michael Boyle, Jon Inglett, Darby Johnsen, and Mary Turner

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the attending members. Jeff made a motion to accept the minutes as written, and Kathy seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Max then talked to the committee about the visit from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) due to take place on March 8th and 9th. He is virtually certain that the HLC team will want to discuss Gen Ed assessment with Gen Ed Committee members and perhaps some of the members of the artifact evaluation teams. Actual times are not known, as Janet is still working on the agenda for the visit.

We discussed possible areas of interest by HLC:

- 1) Our philosophy of General Education.
This should be easy, it is provided by the OSRHE core competencies.
- 2) How we maintain the list of General Education courses.
This is driven by the OCCC faculty, not by the Gen Ed Committee. They are the ones to decide whether to add or remove a Gen Ed course. The forms to add require the approval of the division dean but also require that the course be transferable to other state institutions of higher learning.
- 3) The voluntary nature of the OCCC Gen Ed assessment process.
Our Gen Ed assessment program was set up, like that of Johnson County Community College, to be faculty-led, not administration-driven. For the results to indicate the effect that OCCC courses have on the Gen Ed development of our students, we only assess artifacts from students who have successfully complete a minimum of 35 credit hours at OCCC. Because the program is voluntary, it is not “research designed.” The idea is to make changes based on the results we see.

Janet said that she will be setting up a resource room for HLC, and that we can put any extra information or examples there.

The point was again made that we value the voluntary nature of the Gen Ed assessment program and that, while we don't want to restrict the nature of the artifacts by dictating standards to faculty, we do reserve the right not to accept artifacts that aren't appropriate for the outcome.

Kathy asked that the Gen Ed members be provided with talking points before the HLC visit. Janet said that she would be doing that.

Courtney then asked that the members consider the recommendations based on the FY15 assessment data. As the points were discussed, it was clear that there was not enough time to complete them face to face. Courtney said she would incorporate the suggestions into a new draft of the recommendations and that she would send them to the committee via email for their final feedback and then for their vote for approval. Attached are the recommendations that were approved unanimously by the voting members of the committee by email over the period February 12 - 15, 2016.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Attachment

General Education FY15 Assessment Recommendations and Actions

Based on the results of the FY2015 assessment:

- 1) We recommend a heightened prioritization and pursuit both of mathematical methods artifacts and of public speaking artifacts from as wide a variety of OCCC courses as possible.

This requires the support of the deans and any faculty teaching courses that contain one or both of those components.

- 2) We will reconfigure the rubric for assessing writing artifacts before the summer of 2016 to give more appropriate weighting to the different components of the writing rubric.
- 3) We will further educate OCCC faculty as to the importance and usefulness of Gen Ed assessment, primarily by having the Gen Ed committee members act as a resource for questions from faculty in their division.
- 4) We recommend expanding the number of members of the math evaluation team from three to four, with the fourth member coming from the Business Division. This will help implement both item 1 and item 3.