

**General Education Committee
October 14, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Began 12:30 p.m.
Meeting Adjourned 1:25 p.m.

Present: Jon Inglett, Mary Turner, Valerie McCartney, Douglas Gregory, Dr. Max Simmons, Dr. Janet Perry, Ernest Gobert, Dawn Ladiski, Greg Gardner, Jay Ramanjalu, Randy Hopkins, Linda Cowan, Lori Farr, and Catherine Kinyon

Absent: Tamala Zolicoffer and Jeff Cleek

Max made a motion to approve the minutes from the September meeting. Jay seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Jon briefly mentioned that the next meeting would be devoted to the discussion and possible approval of four courses as General Education--Humanities.

Next, the Public Speaking competency was discussed. In the September meeting, Dr. Aquino praised the work of the committee and offered challenges for improving students' proficiency in this area. Some of the ideas discussed included encouraging faculty development training in this area, surveying faculty to see what they are currently doing, requiring Public Speaking as a general education course, hiring more full-time Public Speaking faculty, encouraging new programs to consider requiring COM 2213, and finally to revise the General Education—Public Speaking outcome as Oral Communication. There was positive discussion about this latter suggestion because many courses, especially those taught in the new collaborative learning format, already encourage oral communication in class. The question that arose is whether this competency should address only the ability to make formal speeches or whether it should emphasize the ability to communicate orally in a variety of settings.

Ernest posed a question about why Public Speaking isn't a part of the General Education requirements. Jon indicated that it used to be grouped with composition. Max said that OCCC adopted Public Speaking as an Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education competency (it came from CESSI). Janet said that the Student Success Monitoring Report goes to the Board of Regents in November. She stressed the importance of the results and said that it is critical that the committee take a serious look at it. The original competency was Oral Communication, but the General Education Committee interpreted that to be Public Speaking.

A new Public Speaking lab has been established and will be functional by Spring 2011. It is located at 1D4 AH. Committee members from the Nursing department discussed how they could use the lab and stream into ANGEL to allow students to critique each other (Process to Product model).

Next, the committee discussed the Johnson and Johnson seminar on cooperative learning in the classroom. The workshop will be held over a period of three (3) half days. One Saturday in November, December, and January will be involved. The workshop actively promotes the social

skills of listening, sharing, and communicating using both formal and informal strategies. Participating faculty would learn how to teach students to debate, rehearse, paraphrase, and summarize (critical thinking in oral discourse). Classes could be digitally recorded so that the process could later be critiqued. Lori indicated Darby Johnsen currently uses Base Groups; Ray McCullar uses Informal Tasks; and Lori uses Formal Tasks. These approaches take the various skills from beginning to end to evolve into total communication.

Family groups have formed to find ways to incorporate these strategies into classes (both online and on site).

Changing the competency from Public Speaking to Oral Communication would include more students. These skills are important in nursing. The stress would be on effective communication. Will this help with CESSI results?

Greg posited that the committee will have to edit the competency (after the HLC visit). How do we define and assess Oral Communication? How do we create a rubric that will address this? How do we get artifacts?

It was suggested that we make a clear distinction between General Education Competencies and the General Education Requirements for graduation.

The committee agreed to submit Agenda Item #3 to the board. These are things that OCCC currently is doing to address Public Speaking.

- Brown Bag Luncheon Series for students—Anxiety and Public Speaking (Presented by Jeff Cleek)
- Public Speaking Laboratory
- On-Campus Seminar for Faculty—Active Learning: Cooperation in the College Classroom
- Leisure Studies (latest approved program requiring Public Speaking as a support course)

Max made a motion to adjourn the committee. Jay seconded the motion. The motion received unanimous approval.