

General Education Committee
September 11, 2014 Minutes

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

Present: Dr. Courtney Vahlberg, Dr. Max Simmons, Dr. Janet Perry, Brent Noel, Mary Turner, Anita Williams, Dr. Kathy Wheat, Julie Rice-Rollins, Darby Johnsen, Pamela Stout, and Haifeng Ji,

Absent: Greg Gardner, Dr. Glenne' Whisenhunt, Jay Ramanjulu, Catherine Kinyon

The meeting began with everyone reading the minutes from the April 10, 2014, meeting. Haifeng Ji was introduced as the new representative from the Division of Information Technology, replacing Doug Gregory who retired in May. Darby Johnsen, the Director of Academic Student Success, was also introduced as a new member. Max suggested making the Director of Academic Student Success a voting member of the Gen Ed Committee. After a brief discussion, Courtney moved to make the Director of Academic Student Success a voting member. Brent seconded the motion, and the committee voted unanimously in favor of this.

Courtney then spent a few minutes discussing the purpose of the General Education Committee. Most of the committee's time is spent on assessment. It was pointed out from the April minutes that the committee now accepts artifacts from collaborative classes.

Max made a motion to approve the April minutes. Kathy seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

After the minutes were approved, Max made a motion to adjust the committee guidelines to accept the Director of Academic Student Success a voting member. Courtney seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved the motion. Courtney will send the updated guidelines to Dr. Aquino for approval.

Courtney discussed the assessment results from the last academic year and from the last five years. Highlights from last year's results show that students are meeting the goal of 70 percent competency. Brent posed a question about critical thinking and basic student knowledge. He lamented the fact that his students did not know who the Vice President of the United States is. The committee then discussed the challenges of cultural literacy.

Janet posed a question regarding what should go to the board in the monitoring report. There was a brief discussion about this, and she and Courtney will work together to decide the appropriate data.

Courtney briefly mentioned and applauded the work that Catherine Kinyon had done on the General Education website, including the addition of "General Education Tips, Suggestions, and Resources for Students." Individuals can get to the webpage by selecting the Academic Affairs tab on the college homepage, the Institutional Committees, and finally, General Education.

The last part of the meeting focused on faculty who are “on the fence” about contributing artifacts for General Education assessments. How can committee members address the question of why would someone want to contribute artifacts?

As time was running out, Courtney left the committee with three things to think about for the next meeting:

1. designing a rubric for the new Human Heritage, Culture, and Institutions outcome
2. revamping the mathematical methods rubric
3. collecting artifacts that are prepared in a language other than English

Courtney reminded everyone that the October meeting would be held in the SEM conference room.

The meeting adjourned.