

General Education Council

Minutes

January 20, 2010

Allie Young 31

The General Education Council met at 7:30 a.m. January 20, 2010, in Room 31 Allie Young. Members present: Loretta Lykins, Cyndi Gibbs, Barbara Dehner, Edna Schack, Yvonne Baldwin, Glenn Colburn, Timothy Hare, Rebecca Katz, Elsie Pritchard, Beverly McCormick, Carol Wymer, Dayna Seelig, Robert Boram, Cathy Thomas; Members absent: Clarenda Phillips, Dianna Murphy, and Charles Patrick.

1. Scott Wymer was present to give an overview of the software he and L.K. Williams have developed. A student portfolio software, the system handles quantitative and qualitative assessment data and rubrics. It can be used to set goals and objectives and has the potential to talk to Weave and possibly to TK-20 with additional tools. It can be customized; it can do inter-rater reliability; it can do a linking system to university goals and objectives. Goals can be retained or made inactive. They are currently building a system behind this one to be able to link to other systems. It can look at individual students and at all students; it can be searched using key words, dates, etc. You can ask to see all assessments that deal with writing, for example. It has the capacity to build reports that provide longitudinal data. It can set up filters so we could just look at first year students, or seniors, for example. Rubrics are built using a standard tabular format. They can be simple or very complex, including rubrics within rubrics. It can mix data from multiple assessments. It does not interface with Blackboard, so students can't upload an assessment to BB and have it show up. But faculty can download scores from BB and upload them to the system. A system administrator would set up rights and access and maintain reports, etc., much like the Weave system. Dr. Wymer agreed to talk to the council again if we have questions.
2. Minutes of the January 13 meeting were approved as distributed.
3. **Action: FYS Revisions for the following were approved by majority vote:**
 - Wesley White
 - Ann Rathbun
 - Leadership – Manis
 - Chapman
 - Wymer
 - Johnson
 - McCormick
4. Old Business – Discussion on finalizing the rationale statement on assessment person took place. It was agreed that the rationale should leave the specifics of the job

description out, but should focus on the broader Gen Ed issue of need for infrastructure to handle the massive amount of data, planning, analysis, and management necessary to do effective Gen Ed assessment at the course and program levels. Cathy and Yvonne will edit the draft and send out via email for final action later this morning. When approved, the rationale will be sent to Provost Hughes.

5. New Business:
 - a. Transition Courses courses are now at the Blackboard site. Members will review them for Friday's special meeting.
 - b. an email from Lora Pace regarding Eagle Planners and Fee for First Year Students was discussed. **Action: it was agreed by majority vote that the \$10 course fee that covered the cost of the Eagle Planner, training, and other materials related to MSU 101 would be continued and applied to the First Year Seminar.**
 - c. Dianna Murphy has resigned her role as Courses Coordinator, citing personal reasons. This information will be shared with the Senate so a replacement can be identified.
 - d. Yvonne Baldwin announced that she has decided to leave MSU effective June 30, 2010, citing "irreconcilable differences" that make it impossible for her to continue employment in her current capacity.
6. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 9:10. THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE A CALLED MEETING FROM 1 TO 3 P.M. ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 22. The purpose of the meeting will be to review and approve the Transition Course proposals currently posted at blackboard. Review groups will be assigned via email this afternoon.