

General Education Council

Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2010

Allie Young 31

The General Education Council met at 7:30 a.m. March 24, 2010, in Room 31 Allie Young. Members present were: Clarendia Phillips, Barbara Dehner, Edna Schack, Yvonne Baldwin, Timothy Hare, Charles Patrick, Cathy Thomas, Dayna Seelig, Cyndi Gibbs, Beverly McCormick, Elsie Pritchard. Members absent were: Kerry Murphy, Robert Boram, Rebecca Katz, Glen Colburn, Carol Wymer,

1. Minutes of March 10 meeting were approved as presented.
2. **Old Business:**
 - The issue of program specific or program recommended Gen Ed courses was again raised by Barbara Dehner. As currently interpreted, the provision against this disadvantages some programs, particularly those whose students transfer from the community colleges. Considerable discussion took place with Dayna Seelig affirming the decision to disallow this practice except as noted in the previous meeting where recommendations can be made in the advising notes.
 - Beverly McCormick provided a report on the meeting of the FYS subcommittee. The group has revised and renamed the scoring guide to “scoring guide/rubric”. The subcommittee discussed the instructor training and has begun to plan for those. The subcommittee discussed whether it may be best to keep the common reading for more than one year, perhaps changing every three years. The subcommittee discussed which elements of MSU 101 to retain and incorporate into the FYS. They are leaning toward the creation of online modules that include quizzes. Students would be required to complete the modules for grades, but the FYS instructors would not have to create or grade them – simply reinforce, review, and/or “model” the behaviors in the seminar. They are also considering retaining a library module that would be standardized and required. They are focusing on the creation of pre-post tests as well.
3. **New Business:**
 - Document from Robert Boram was discussed. Discussion centered on the limitation of class size in general education. Although this was an FGEAC recommendation, at the time it was made and at the time the Faculty Senate considered the document, it was noted that class size could be recommended by the FGEAC (now the Gen Ed Council) but the authority to set caps and enrollments remains at the department/dean level. Hence, it will not be appropriate to evaluate a course proposal based on that criterion. It was agreed that the reading/writing intensive language on the form would be changed as follows: “Reading/Writing Intensive designation is used in the proposal and demonstrates substantive and appropriate reading and/or writing assignments.”

- Timothy Hare's proposal development form was discussed. He has had several comments via email. Timothy, Cathy Thomas, and Yvonne Baldwin will meet on Friday to update the draft, which will then be circulated via email for discussion at the April 2 meeting.
4. Next Meeting: Friday, April 2, 2 to 4 p.m. AY 31. Meetings remainder of semester: April 7, 14, 21, 30; May 5, 12.