

## General Education Curriculum Committee Meeting Agenda

September 13, 2013

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Department of Agriculture: General Education Proposal
3. Introductions: Director of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness, Dr. Monica Varner
4. Approval of Minutes from April 22, 2013
5. Elections: Chair-elect and Secretary.

Eligible Members for Chair-elect: Dr. Cheryl Chaney (2 years), Dr. J.J. Mayo (2 years), Dr. Justin Killingsworth (2 years), Dr. Jackie Bowman (3 yrs), Dr. David Roach (3 yrs), Dr. Teresa Herrick (3 yrs).

6. Moving Forward:
  - a. University Assessment Strategic Plan
  - b. Civic Involvement Goal: Criteria
  - c. General Education Proposal Guidelines
  - d. Institutional Research: ARGOS and Course, Program, and General Education
7. Meeting Times
8. New Business/Other Business

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From Faculty Handbook → [General Education Committee] *Function*: Exercise oversight of general education: regularly assess the degree to which the University is meeting the stated general education goals, review general education goals and requirements, evaluate proposals that affect general education, and clearly and publicly articulate the purposes, content, and intended learning outcomes of general education.

Approved 10-28-13

**The Minutes of  
THE GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
OF  
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY**

The General Education Committee met Friday, September 13, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in the Baswell Techionery, room 202. The following were present:

Dr. Jackie Bowman	Dr. Justin Killingsworth
Dr. Cheryl Chaney	Dr. J.J. Mayo
Dr. Erin Clair	Ms. Karen Riddell
Ms. Gwen Faulkenberry	Dr. David Roach
Dr. Teresa Herrick	Ms. Jennifer Saxton
	Dr. Joseph Swain

Absent: Mr. Zack Crossett

Guests:

Dr. Willie Hoefler	Dr. Mack Rainey
Dr. Johnette Moody	Dr. Monica Varner

Call to Order            Dr. Moody called the meeting to order and turned the committee over to Dr. Swain as the new chair. The committee thanked Dr. Moody for serving as the chair this past year and Dr. Moody then left the meeting.

Dr. Swain passed out the agenda for the meeting, the minutes of the last meeting, a copy of the goals with their individual criteria, and the curriculum proposal from the Department of Agriculture to the committee. Dr. Swain told the committee that he would try to get the agenda out to the committee before the meetings in the future.

Dr. Roach made a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes from the last meeting. Dr. Bowman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Agri Proposal            Dr. Swain then asked Dr. Rainey to address the committee on the proposal from the Agriculture Department to add AGBU 2063 Principles of Agriculture Macroeconomics and AGBU 2073 Principles of Agriculture Microeconomics as general education options to meet the Social Science requirements.

Dr. Rainey explained to the committee that this would be similar to accepting the ECON 2003 Principles of Economics I and ECON 2013 Principles of Economics II offered through the College of Business and currently accepted as general education options. He said that the Agriculture Department would use the same objectives as the Business Department for these courses. Dr. Rainey also explained that other universities accept these courses to meet their Social Science requirements

and that we accept those courses from transfer students that have taken the courses at universities where they are part of the General Education curriculum, which seemed unfair to our students that have taken the courses here at Tech and are not allowed to use them to meet the General Education requirement. Lastly, Dr. Rainey explained that by using these courses to meet the general education requirements, it would enable the Agriculture Department to better streamline their curriculum for their students by providing six additional hours of major courses.

After hearing the rationales from Dr. Rainey, Dr. Roach made the motion for the General Education Committee to approve the request to add AGBU 2063 and AGBU 2073 to the General Education options in Social Science. Dr. Bowman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dr. Hoefler and Dr. Rainey then left the meeting.

#### Introductions

Dr. Swain then introduced Dr. Monica Varner, Director of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness, to the committee and asked everyone to introduce themselves to her.

#### Elections

Dr. Swain asked for nominations for Chair-Elect and for Secretary of the committee for this year. Dr. Roach nominated Dr. J.J. Mayo as Chair-Elect and Dr. Justin Killingsworth as Secretary. Dr. Bowman seconded. There being no other nominations, Dr. Mayo elected Chair-Elect and Dr. Killingsworth elected Secretary by acclamation.

#### Moving Forward

Dr. Swain passed out a copy of the Arkansas Tech and the University Assessment Committee Strategic Plans and briefed the committee on the expectations for the General Education Committee in this regard. He told the committee that there should be systems in place to address the general education areas of the strategic plans.

One of the things that he felt the committee needed to address immediately was to come up with a format for proposals that come to the General Education Committee for approval and to be able to communicate these guidelines to the faculty. The committee decided to form a sub-committee to work on a guideline for this. Dr. Swain said he would send out an email to the committee members to see who would like to be on that sub-committee.

The committee inquired about the Assessment trainings that had been done in the past for new faculty and Dr. Varner told them that she would be discussing training sessions for both General Education and Assessment at the next University Assessment Committee meeting. Dr. Varner also told the committee that since the University has moved to the new Open Pathway for accreditation, we would be working on a more

formalized and stream-lined process to show alignment of courses and learning outcomes and also program and course alignments.

Dr. Swain told the committee that he would like to invite Wyatt Watson from Institutional Research to come to a meeting to talk to the committee about ARGOS and reports to determine what the committee wanted to see in reports. The committee agreed to invite Mr. Watson. Dr. Swain will contact him.

The committee discussed coming up with evaluative rubrics for each goal and that they may need to stagger the goals each year since this will be an ongoing process.

The committee then discussed the Civic Involvement Goal that Dr. Watson has asked the committee to consider adding to the General Education Goals. The committee had voted to recommend this at the February 2013 meeting, but criteria must be set for this before sending it to the Assessment Committee for approval. The committee decided that this also needed a sub-committee and Dr. Roach and Dr. Herrick volunteered to work on this.

The review of the Wellness Concept goal is also still in progress and since Dr. Warnick was on this sub-committee, they may need a replacement member. Dr. Mayo explained that Wellness now offers a class that provides trainers to students, faculty, and staff to help them with physical fitness. Dr. Varner said that since this class is offered across campus, it might work to meet the Wellness Concept goal. This will be something that the sub-committee can consider.

For the new committee members, it was explained that the six goals with their criteria were set forth in the Report of General Education Assessment from the University Assessment Committee in 2009 and that all general education courses should address at least one of these general education goals.

The committee then discussed the Develop Ethical Perspectives goal and using the DIT (Defining Issues Test) to assess this goal. Dr. Varner told the committee that she has an Ethics Rubric that she will share with the committee to use instead of the DIT.

#### Meeting Times

Dr. Swain explained to the committee that is very difficult to find a time that all members are available to meet, but that we would try to stagger the meeting times. We will continue to use the Doodle scheduler to find the most convenient times for everyone.

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.



**Department of Agriculture**  
Dean Hall, Room 123  
402 West O Street  
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

## MEMO

Office: 479-968-0251  
Fax: 479-964-0139  
[www.atu.edu/agriculture](http://www.atu.edu/agriculture)

**To:** General Education Committee  
**From:** Malcolm R. Rainey  
**cc:** Curriculum Committee  
**Date:** August 29, 2013  
**Re:** General education consideration

The Department of Agriculture is requesting consideration for its proposal to include AGBU 2063 Principles of Agriculture Macroeconomics and AGBU 2073 Principles of Agriculture Microeconomics as general education options to meet the Social Science requirement.

This request is based on several facts: (1) The Economics courses offered through the College of Business ECON 2003 Principles of Economics I and ECON 2013 Principles of Economics II are currently accepted (2) The AG Macro and AG Micro economics courses offered at the University of Arkansas and University of Missouri accept these to meet their Social Science requirements. (3) This would also provide the Agriculture Majors the opportunity to take 6 additional hours of major courses.

If there are any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

*Malcolm R. Rainey*


Malcolm R. Rainey

Head, Department of Agriculture

**Arkansas Tech University**  
**DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT FORM**

This form must be completed for every department affected by the course change.

Department Affected: College of Business and the Department of Accounting and Economics	This department <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> supports <input type="checkbox"/> does not support the change.
Comments:	

Department Head Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: 9/3/13

## **AGBU 2063: Principles of Agricultural Macroeconomics**

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Prerequisite: AGBU 1013

A study of macroeconomic variables that affect agriculture with emphasis on consumption, unemployment, inflation, government spending and taxes, investments, national income, and money and banking.

## **AGBU 2073: Principles of Agriculture Microeconomics**

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Prerequisite: AGBU 1013

A study of microeconomics variables that affect agriculture with emphasis on price determination, production, costs, income distribution, perfect and imperfect competition.



ARKANSAS TECH  
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*Gen Ed Com  
approved  
9/13/2013*

RECEIVED

OCT 04 2013

Registrar's Office

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*Malcolm R. Rainey*

Malcolm R. Rainey

Head, Department of Agriculture



## Tammy Weaver

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**From:** Joseph Swain <jswain@atu.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 10, 2013 2:02 PM  
**To:** Tammy Weaver  
**Subject:** FW: General Education Committee  
**Attachments:** Agriculture Economics Memo.pdf; ACCT ECON Departmental Support Letter.pdf

Dear Tammy,

On Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> the General Education Committee voted unanimously to recommend the attached proposal for addition to the General Education Curriculum. I sincerely apologize for the delay in sending this information to your office, but as the new chair I wasn't quite sure who should receive this recommendation next. I am also sending a copy to Dr. Watson. Please let me know if you have any questions concerning this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Joseph Swain

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Dr. Joseph Swain  
Chair, General Education Committee  
Assistant Professor of Geography  
Department of History and Political Science  
Arkansas Tech University  
jswain@atu.edu  
479-356-2025

## Arkansas Tech University

### Strategic Planning

The strategic planning by Arkansas Tech University is a collaborative effort of students, faculty, staff, administrators, and other friends of the Arkansas Tech community. The goals put forward will dramatically improve our institution and better prepare us to meet the challenges of the new century. (For complete ATU Strategic Plan go to <http://www.atu.edu/strategicplanning/> )

#### University Core Values:

- Teaching excellence with a focus on student learning, scholarship, and innovation.
- Continues improvement of all programs and services.

#### University Driving Forces:

- Graduation Rates and Retention Rates
- Institutional and Program Accreditation
- Quality of Student Learning and Teaching and Programs

#### Strategic Planning Goal One:

Enhance the creation and delivery of first quality education services.

- **Increase emphasis and support for a campus culture of assessment.**
- Achieve accreditation of all eligible academic programs.
- Focus on assessment and improvement of all academic programs.
- Ensure that all academic departments have an effective assessment plan.
- Emphasize assessment and improvement of the general education program.

The designated assessment and quality education goals from the University Strategic Planning Committee will be implemented by the University Assessment Committee and the Office of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness. The University Assessment Committee will develop and identify goals and objectives to improve curricular and co-curricular programs, enhance student learning, improve the assessment process for student learning, academic programs, general education, and co-curricular activities, as well as increase collaboration and communication in assessment for students, faculty, staff, administrators, and other friends of the Arkansas Tech community.

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**University Assessment Strategic Plan**

**University Assessment Committee**

Plan for 2013-2014			Report for 2013-2014		
Objective	Measure	Standard	Results	Conclusions	Action
Develop and implement student learning assessment plan and process for the General Education Program.					
Develop and implement an assessment tracking system for all Academic Programs, General Education program, and co-curricular activities.					
Develop and implement an assessment process to better determine program and general education curriculum changes.					
Develop and implement a university					

OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT AND INSTUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

assessment communication plan and faculty/staff assessment training program.					
Develop guidelines to ensure student learning outcomes assessment is included in academic program reviews and/or accreditation report.					
Develop and implement academic affairs and student services shared outcomes to enhance student learning and achievement.					
Develop and implement a co-curricular assessment plan and process.					
Develop guidelines and an evaluation rubric for assessment grants.					
Develop an assessment academic calendar for all					

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departments completing assessment.					
Identify an assessment plan and assessment processes with Ozark campus.					
Develop and implement an assessment process which effectively utilizes existing systems.					

## University Assessment Committee

### APPOINTED STANDING COMMITTEES

**Membership:** A minimum of seven faculty members, (each school dean, including Graduate School, will recommend one faculty member) one of whom will serve as committee chair, the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs or his/her designated representative, the Graduate Dean, one Undergraduate Academic Dean, the Vice President for Student Services (VPSS) or his/her designated representative, the Vice President for Administration and Finance or his/her designated representative, the Director of Institutional Research and Assessment, the Registrar, and the Director of the University Honors Program, a designated representative of Arkansas Valley Technical Institute of Arkansas Tech University, and one student member recommended by the Vice President for Student Services.

**Function:** To develop, implement, oversee, and maintain assessment procedures in line with criteria set forth by the state, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and various specialized accrediting agencies.

### Organization

The Arkansas Tech University Assessment Committee is an oversight body charged with reexamining existing assessment practices to provide advice and recommendations aimed at improving and enhancing the effectiveness of student assessment.

The Committee is composed of at least one faculty member for each academic school, representatives from relevant offices and governing bodies across campus, and two members of the student body.

# Goal I

## Apply Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning

### Scientific Reasoning

#### ***Criteria***

Students at Arkansas Tech who complete the science general education requirement will:

1. Identify hypotheses, classify relevant variables, and evaluate experimental design.
2. Formulate reasonable explanations of natural phenomena based on observations of both quantitative and qualitative data.
3. Recognize the power of the scientific process through its ability to provide ways to experimentally verify and predict natural phenomena.

### Quantitative Reasoning

#### ***Criteria***

Students at Arkansas Tech who complete the mathematics general education requirement will:

1. Perform a quantitative analysis of a situation and make a decision based upon the outcome.
2. Understand information presented in graphical format.
3. Create a mathematical model of a real world situation.
4. Use mathematical formulae or processes in real world situations.

# Goal II

## Communicate Effectively

### Written Communication

#### **Criteria**

Students at Arkansas Tech who complete the written communication general education requirement will:

- a. Gather thoughts and present them in a cohesive, written manner.  
(Criterion Service: Organization and Development)
- b. Synthesize information into a collective argument.  
(Criterion Service: Style)
- c. Use proper grammar.  
(Criterion Service: Grammar, Usage and Mechanics)

### Oral Communication

#### **Criteria**

Students at Arkansas Tech who complete the spoken communication general education requirement will:

- a. Verbally present thoughts in an organized manner.
- b. Speak with confidence on a variety of subjects.
- c. Adapt to multiple audiences including a professional audience.

## Goal III

### Develop Ethical Perspectives

#### *Criteria*

Students at Arkansas Tech who complete the general education requirements will:

1. Exhibit integrity and reliability in individual action and institutional activities.
2. Practice principle-centered leadership.
3. Demonstrate responsibility when interacting with new technologies and information.

## Goal IV

### Demonstrate Knowledge of the Arts and Humanities

#### *Criteria*

Students at Arkansas Tech who complete the Arts and Humanities general education requirement will:

1. Identify and analyze diverse cultural and historical factors in the creation of and response to works of art, music, theatre, film, or literature.
2. Evaluate the global significance of works of art, music, theatre, film, or literature to the human experience.
3. Identify ideas and arguments from literature or philosophy and relate them to the global context in which they were created.
4. Understand basic terms used to identify and describe diverse works of art, music, theatre, film, literature, or philosophy.
5. Identify and analyze relationships among schools of art, music, theatre, film, literature, or philosophy.



## Goal V

### Think Critically

#### ***Criteria***

Students at Arkansas Tech who complete the general education requirements will:

1. Identify an underlying argument.
2. Make reasonable inferences from an argument.
3. Assess the quality of evidence.
4. Identify the thesis and conclusions in an argument.

## Goal VI

### Understand Wellness Concepts

#### ***Criteria***

Students at Arkansas Tech who complete the wellness general education requirement will:

1. Describe the current wellness/fitness status of the population.
2. Identify ways to improve wellness status.
3. Explain the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.