

Approved
9-18-17

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

The General Education Committee met Monday, April 24, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. in Brown 355.
The following were present:

Dr. Christine Austin	Karen Riddell
Cheryl Chaney	Dr. Jeremy Schwehm
Nancy Cox	Dr. Theresa Herrick
Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim	Dr. David Ward

Absent: Dr. Pam Carr, Gwen Faulkenberry, Dr. Patrick Hagge, Dr. Thomas Nupp, Matthew Smith

Approval of Minutes Dr. Schwehm called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting. Ms. Chaney made a motion to approve. Dr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Faculty Senate Dr. Schwehm started the meeting by giving the committee a recap of what had been discussed at the Faculty Senate meeting in regards to the Interstate Passport Initiative Proposal and also in regards to the charge of the General Education Committee. He told the committee the Faculty Senate had voted on a motion to reaffirm that the General Education Committee oversee and make recommendations for General Education courses and to work with Assessment to send out reminders and collect data from colleges and departments regarding General Education assessment. The committee is also charged with reviewing the CPGE in relation to the Passport learning outcomes. He said the senate didn't have a problem so much with the Passport learning outcomes, but more with having an outside entity prescribing what Tech's learning outcomes were. Some of the faculty were concerned that others would be telling them what they had to do in their classes, but Dr. Schwehm assured them that was not what would happen. He told them they would just be asked what they were doing. Dr. Herrick suggested doing a survey of the faculty that teach general education courses. Dr. Ibrahim questioned how much the Passport framework aligned with what is already done at Tech because faculty are concerned about having to go through extra steps. Dr. Austin said we have the CPGE data, but it needs to be tied to general education. Institutional Research puts the data that faculty give them in to the system, but that data needs to be reviewed and it can be problematic to use the data that way. Dr. Ibrahim pointed out that the data is needed for HLC, so it would have to be gathered anyway, but he wants the committee to be productive in gathering that data. Dr. Austin stressed that the implementation of Passport was not

just for HLC, but for making sure that our students are meeting their learning outcomes. She thought we are actually in pretty good shape in regards to our upcoming HLC visit, but we need to make sure the students are getting what they need.

Dr. Herrick asked if there was a way to make assessment as easy and routine as putting in grades for students. Dr. Schwehm said that right now, CPGE is not being put in to action in the most effective way and that there are too many steps to using it. The committee thought it might be a good idea to have some trainings on assessment and inputting data in to CPGE. It was also suggested that the questions assessing general education be pulled out of the regular tests and put in to a singular assignment so that it would be easier to find. Dr. Austin said it might be possible to get a scantron that can pull out specific information so that faculty would not be overwhelmed with that process. Dr. Schwehm thought the new Advise software that has been purchased might be able to help with some of this too if it can pull the information from Blackboard. Dr. Austin said that only 30% of faculty actually use Blackboard, so that might be difficult to get the information in to Blackboard. Dr. Schwehm said the bottom line is that we need a way to pull the data. Dr. Ward suggested maybe tying some kind of assessment with the student evaluations. Dr. Austin said that some schools have assessment days. Dr. Schwehm said we could build an assessment shell without the faculty having to do anything except make it open since every class has a Blackboard shell. The committee discussed looking at working on this for the fall and working with department heads to help pull data out of Blackboard. Dr. Ibrahim thought we need to figure out how to map the data first and then figure out how to streamline the process.

Dr. Schwehm told the committee that the Faculty Senate had basically given the General Education the charge to take charge of General Education assessment. He said the proposal he had taken to the Faculty Senate was accepted short of becoming a Passport institution. All the steps leading up to the application to Passport were still a go and that he was happy with that. He thought this process would help with improving the CPGE system and getting more buy-in from faculty by showing them their CPGE data and how it is being used.

Dr. Schwehm said the Faculty Senate minutes should be up by Reading day.

Reports

Dr. Schwehm then spoke to the committee about the General Education Reports. He told them that we don't have the reports from the last couple of years and he thought part of the reason for that was because we don't have a standardized form to use. He told the committee he gets a course release for the summer and he would be working on the report and also working

with Dr. Austin on data collection. Dr. Schwehm asked the committee for their input on this and told them they could send that to him.

Dr. Schwehm told the committee that he and Dr. Austin met with Dr. Abdelrahman and he wants the committee to go back to the push for CPGE data and see about collecting that more efficiently to see how it lines up with Higher Learning outcomes.

Dr. Herrick thought an important thing for the committee to do was to set realistic goals and objectives at the beginning of each year. She felt that is why the committee is not accomplishing as much as needed. She thought this would also help with the report writing; to be able to say whether the things that were set as goals were completed or, if not, what stage the goal was in.

Dr. Schwehm told the committee that he would work on the structure for report over the summer.

The committee discussed that it still has the Wellness goal to address and that there is only one course set up to gather data on that goal.

The committee thanked Dr. Schwehm for his services as chair of the committee this year.

Dr. Herrick made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Cox seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.