

Agenda
General Education Committee Meeting
10:00 am, December 12, 2017
RCB 355

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Semester Wrap-up
3. Identify Agenda Items for Next Semester

Approved 4-25-18

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

The General Education Committee met Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in Brown 355. The following were present:

Dr. Christine Austin
Dr. Pam Carr
Cheryl Chaney
Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim

Dr. Thomas Nupp
Karen Riddell
Dr. Jeremy Schwehm
Dr. Alaric Williams

Absent: Dr. David Blanks, Katy Dodd, Tkeyah McDaniel, Dr. Cathi McMahan, Dr. David Ward

Minutes Dr. Ibrahim asked for approval of the minutes from the November meeting. Dr. Schwehm made the motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Chaney seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Semester Wrap-up Dr. Ibrahim started the meeting by discussing the semester wrap-up. He reminded the committee that they had decided to use Kristi Spittler-Brown's math course as a pilot assessment course. He said that OIS had created a shell for her, but that the committee needed to make sure they had access to the shell to maintain it and be able to modify it for use with other courses. Dr. Ibrahim said he agreed with Dr. Ward's comments from the last meeting that the committee needed to start with just one pilot and make sure this works before adding more. Dr. Schwehm said he has access to the math shell and he could give the committee an update on that. He said OIS is working on how to use Blackboard to its fullest potential. They have created the math assessment shell (MATH 1003) and what he and Ms. Spittler-Brown would like to have happen is for every student enrolled in Math 1003 for the spring semester to be populated in to this shell. Each student would have a test within their own class that they take in Blackboard (or by some other means that can be put in to Blackboard) and this test would automatically populate into the assessment shell. The student would get a grade for their course and it could also be used for assessment. OIS is working on the code for this now. This would allow all of the Math sections, no matter who the teacher was, to auto-populate in to the assessment shell. If this cannot be accomplished, then every math class would have its own assessment tool built in to Blackboard. This would replicate the attendance module and should work with everyone. Dr. Ibrahim questioned whether this assessment would be done at the end of the semester in order to assess the learning outcomes. Dr. Austin said she had met with Ms. Spittler-Brown to work on their learning outcomes and they would be giving a pre-test within Blackboard at the beginning of the semester mapped to their program outcomes and also to the general

education outcomes and then they would be giving a post-test at the end of the semester. The post-test would be the one used for general education assessment.

Dr. Austin reported to the committee that she had sent out an email to faculty teaching general education courses and is getting a lot of feedback from faculty that didn't know the courses they were teaching were general education courses. She felt the committee might need to do some educating on what courses were general education courses. She thought there should be emails sent a few times per semester. Dr. Schwehm thought it would be good to publish the graphic of general education courses and goals the committee had put together, once it is agreed upon that is what the committee will look at for assessment. This will show what the courses are and what they need to address for general education outcomes.

The committee then discussed mapping of the goals and that this would be the responsibility of the faculty and committee to determine. Dr. Austin thought there were still a lot of courses that we don't know what measure they are using to input into the general education system. Dr. Austin wondered if the value rubric should be used as the norming tool to get everyone on the same page and then use those as the scale. Dr. Ibrahim thought a mapping criteria for faculty teaching general education should be one of the top agenda items for next semester and that the committee should move forward as much as possible. Dr. Schwehm said he had created some forms based on data collection for Passport that would be the same; we would just be using our own terminology. These are available to use for mapping.

The committee then discussed how to communicate the information with adjunct faculty and those teaching concurrent courses. The consensus was that information needed to come from the departments and that the concurrent courses did need to be assessed.

Dr. Ibrahim stated he felt the committee had done well this semester in deciding which direction to go in assessment, figuring out how to make it automatic, and in getting a pilot started. He asked the committee what they thought would be the best way to get good feedback on this first pilot course. The committee discussed whether everyone on the committee should have access to the pilot course data or just some that could download the data to present to the others. The committee thought a subcommittee would be good for this. Dr. Schwehm and Dr. Ibrahim volunteered to be on the subcommittee. The committee then discussed that there were both technical and conceptual things going on at once, but didn't think they should hold up the conceptual side while waiting on the

technical since they would need to have the conceptual side prepared when the technical side was completed.

Dr. Nupp said that since the sciences already had a good mapping system in place, they could give some of the other colleges examples to use. The committee then decided to also have a sub-committee for the conceptual side. Dr. Schwehm thought that since Dr. Ward and Dr. Blanks were both department heads and on the committee, they would be good ones to have on the conceptual sub-committee along with Dr. Nupp.

Dr. Ibrahim then asked the committee the best way to present this information to others once the committee had it put together. Ms. Chaney said that when the General Education Committee was first put together, Dr. Robin Lasey had worked on assessment that would work for all of the sciences. This is a one page, five questions assessment. Ms. Chaney said that she is the coordinator for all biology general education and therefore has the responsibility of reminding their faculty to do the assessment. She thought each department could assign someone to do this. Dr. Ibrahim thought that since they already have a model, biology could be used next semester for the assessment.

Dr. Schwehm thought the faculty needed to be given the outcomes that need to be assessed as the endgame, but let them know that they still have the academic freedom to address them however they want. Ms. Chaney thought the committee could give the faculty the tools to use for the assessment and then let them make suggestions as to how that might be improved. If they know that the students can take the assessments in Blackboard and it will auto populate, it would be easier to sell the faculty on the idea. Dr. Ibrahim thought this would help with streamlining the process. He also thought the committee should have a draft to show faculty. Dr. Austin suggested value rubrics for this. Ms. Chaney suggested even going as far as giving an example that would show the faculty how it would be graded. She said she had used an ACT preparation test for science as a model when building their assessment. She thought this might work for this as a model too and then they could make adjustments as needed. It may not fit everyone's purpose, but it worked for them.

Dr. Ibrahim asked who should be the next candidate to work with after Math. Dr. Schwehm thought it should be the sciences since they already have something and Ms. Chaney agreed to do that.

Dr. Schwehm commented that for any of the courses that use Blackboard but can't have their assessment within their course, the students could be given access to the Assessment shell to do the assessment and it could auto populate the grade back in to their individual class shell so that the instructors don't have to keep track of it. Ms. Chaney commented that this

was a lot like the evaluations that students already do. Ms. Chaney had an example of the assessments they do in the sciences that she passed around for the committee to look at. The example had multiple choice questions and also a written answer question. She said the questions might be above the level of what the general education students know, but that they should be able to interpret the data. Dr. Austin said the value rubrics have four levels to them and the end level is where the students should be when they graduate. They will be graded all along the spectrum, so that you can see where they are along the way. Ms. Chaney said the scenarios in the assessments can be changed to fit the subject without really changing the questions. Dr. Austin said that as long as you could see the progression of learning, that was what is needed.

Dr. Ibrahim said he thought if the Math pilot was successful this semester with their data collection and assessment and the template within the sciences was established, then we could upload the questions in to the shell and deploy to the rest of the school next semester. Dr. Schwehm said that was what he had communicated with OIS; that we would be test driving the Math assessment for spring, so hopefully that timeline would work.

Dr. Ibrahim asked if there was any other business anyone needed to discuss. Dr. Schwehm said he had some members of the Curriculum Committee ask him how the General Education Committee felt about some curricular issues that had not actually been brought to the General Education Committee. An example was when Math changed their standardized ACT scores to get in to certain math courses. He wondered if the committee needed to discuss with someone what all needed to be brought to the General Education Committee before going to the Curriculum Committee. The committee thought Ms. Weaver (Registrar) might be the right person to discuss this with. Dr. Austin said that she is working with Ms. Weaver to re-create some of the forms that go with the curricular proposals and she will speak with her about this issue. The committee suggested that it may be as simple as putting another checkbox on the form to address whether it needs to go to the General Education Committee.

Adjourn 10:59 a.m.