

Arkansas Tech University
Assessment Committee
General Education Sub-Committee
December 1, 2008
Witherspoon 239-B

The Gen Ed sub-committee met in the Witherspoon 239-B on Monday, December 1, 2008, at 2 p.m. Members present were Dr. Annette Holeyfield, Dr. Jan Jenkins, Dr. Robin Lasey, Dr. Trey Philpotts, and Dr. David Roach. The only member absent was Dr. Brenda Montgomery. Mr. Jason Brown, Dr. Carey Roberts and Mr. Wyatt Watson attended the meeting as guests.

Call To Order	Dr. Robin Lasey called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.
Approval of the Minutes	<p>Dr. Philpotts moved for the approval of the minutes. Dr. David Roach seconded. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Dr. Roach noted that he thought that the Business MFAT's "social responsibility and legal" sub-score could be used as an indirect measure for the Ethical Perspectives goal, even if some questions don't apply. He chose not to propose a change to this section of the November minutes, as they reflected the sub-committee's consensus view.</p>
Update: Gen Ed Assessment	<p>Understanding Wellness Concepts</p> <p>Dr. Annette Holeyfield reported that the off-campus private gyms Back2Basics and St. Mary's Wellness Fitness Center could and would track student usage for ATU.</p>
Official Report for the Gen Ed Sub-Committee	<p>Purpose of the Report</p> <p>The Gen Ed sub-committee was intended to facilitate the creation of a Gen Ed assessment plan by subject-matter faculty. In order to achieve this, the goals were divided among the sub-committee membership, each of whom operated with relative autonomy. This necessary organization – combined with a lack of a central reporting mechanism – has thus far prevented an accurate summary of the assessment plan to be created.</p>

As management of the plan is transitioning to a new committee, it has become imperative to write a comprehensive report. Each member of the sub-committee has been requested to write a report for his or her Gen Ed goal. These reports will be combined by Mr. Jason Brown into a draft final report, which will then be sent to the sub-committee members for approval.

What should be included or answered in the goal reports:

- What assessment measures are currently being used? (If possible, please include samples)
- Who was involved in the creation of these measures?
- In which courses are these measures being used? (Identified by semester and course section)
- What results have been produced? (Separated by semester and course section)
- Ideas for future assessment measures? (Standardized tests; changes to the current measures)
- Has anything been done yet as a result of the current Gen Ed assessment plan?
- Is there anything else available that might help make your goal's assessment plan clearer for the reader? (Emails; handouts; a summarizing narrative, etc.)

Each goal report is due by February 1, 2009. Completed reports are to be sent directly to Mr. Brown.

Reporting Division

Roach – Thinking Critically

Holeyfield – Understanding Wellness Concepts

Montgomery – Develop Ethical Perspectives

Jenkins – Demonstrate Knowledge of the Arts and Humanities

Lasey – Apply Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning

Philpotts (with Dr. Hanna Norton) – Communicate Effectively

Integration of Gen Ed and Banner

Mr. Wyatt Watson was asked to attend this meeting to discuss ways in which Banner could be used to support Gen Ed assessment.

Mr. Watson stated that there are two types of data to be entered, and each must be approached separately.

1) Standardized Test Scores

- Institutional Research is in the process of entering Praxis scores into Banner, after which Argos could be used to query that data.
- The difficulty will be in deciding what other tests on campus are needed for Gen Ed assessment, as these are worthless for that purpose until their results are in Banner.
- An additional problem is the responsibility for entering the data. Mr. Watson stated that because of the potential conflict of interest in IR being able to enter data and report on it, this responsibility should go to another office. The topic was discussed, ending in Dr. Lasey being selected to make a general motion at the December 17, 2008, meeting.
- The good news is that it is feasible to put this information into Banner and link it to the students, thus making it possible for weak areas and commonalities to be identified.

2) Course-Embedded Questions

- Mr. Watson stated that it is possible to store information from these questions in Banner, but he asked the sub-committee whether it was feasible. His concern was that the best way to collect this data was to add a Gen Ed grade reporting page to Banner Self-Service, where faculty would be presented a class roster that required five scores to be entered for each student.
- Discussion:
 - Several members echoed earlier concerns that many faculty would have a problem with this, yet there were no staff members who could do it for the faculty.
 - Dr. Holeyfield explained that in her department, faculty already do this by sending to her documents with five scores organized by student T-number. They actually want such a Banner page, claiming that it would make things much easier for them.

<p>Transition to the Gen Ed Committee</p>	<p>After the Faculty Senate tabled discussion of the topic last month, the ad hoc Gen Ed Committee met to modify its charge proposal in order to address the Senate's concerns. Dr. Lasey was confident that the new proposal should pass muster at the next Senate meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Lasey stated that the Gen Ed sub-committee and the ad hoc Committee should have a joint meeting to transition control of Gen Ed assessment officially. The Gen Ed sub-committee comprehensive report will be presented at this meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Roberts and Mr. Brown were charged with setting up this meeting for the second week in February 2009.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.</p>