

Arkansas Tech University
Assessment Committee
General Education Sub-Committee
February 8, 2008
Williamson Dining Room

The Gen Ed Sub-Committee met in the Williamson Dining Room on Friday, February 8, 2008; at 1:00 p.m. Members present were Dr. Robin Lasey, Dr. Hanna Norton, Dr. Carey Roberts, and Dr. Brenda Montgomery. Member absent was Dr. Annette Holeyfield, Dr. Jan Jenkins, and David Roach.

Call To Order	Dr. Carey Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.
Test of Essential Academic Skills	<p>The Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) was taken by senior nursing students in August 2006 and, after a curriculum change, in November 2006. The sub-committee looked over the TEAS subscore breakdown, noting a correlation between the categories and ATU's Gen Ed goals.</p> <p>The subscores were recognized as exactly the kind of information that the sub-committee should be looking for from standardized tests already in use on campus. Known examples: Praxis Exam taken in Business Dept. SSI (some elements) NFAT Major Field Exams</p> <p>These tests will be a source of indirect assessment information to supplement the results of the sub-committee's direct assessments.</p>
Criterion Exam	<p>The English Dept. has been assessing students in remedial and basic English courses and then tracking their progress through to the completion of English II using the Criterion Service from ETS.</p> <p>This program provided three subscores, all of which may be applicable to Gen Ed assessment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Grammar, Usage and Mechanics2. Style3. Organization and Development <p>This grading service will be used for written English Gen Ed</p>

	assessment, specifically for the Communication Goal.
Goal: Communication (Dr. Norton)	<p>Most of written communication was to be covered by the Criterion service, supplemented by the assessment of written speeches by the speech faculty.</p> <p>Verbal communication was to be assessed in speech classes. Although as not everyone is required to take speech courses, other avenues of assessment were discussed. Senior seminars for Honors/history majors were proposed as an excellent supplement, although a common rubric would need to be given to the appropriate faculty.</p>
Goal: Ethical Perspectives (Dr. Montgomery)	<p>At a prior meeting, the sub-committee proposed three criteria for the Ethical Perspectives goal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Foster Integrity and Credibility Individually and Institutionally 2) Support Principle-Centered Leadership 3) Develop Ethical Perspectives relating to New Technology and Knowledge <p>The sub-committee repeated their earlier suggestions of “course embedded measures” and standardized tests. An anonymous survey of students was suggested as a direct assessment, especially for information relating to plagiarism.</p> <p>Dr. Roberts said that surveying might also be possible through the NSSE, if adding questions might be allowed.</p>
Goal: Scientific Reasoning (Dr. Lasey)	<p>Dr. Lasey showed the sub-committee a tall stack of scientific reasoning quizzes from Fall 07 Biology labs. The sub-committee agreed that these quizzes – with the exception of a few questions – represented an extremely valid assessment of scientific reasoning. The data still needed to be tabulated and analyzed, but it looked promising.</p> <p>Dr. Lasey planned to continue working with Dr. Limperis to create direct measures for the Math Dept.</p>

Additional Work	The meeting schedule for the Gen Ed sub-committee will be: Early March – Reporting on direct measures and F07 Results Early April – Finalize all direct measures April 21 – Dinner with Dept. Heads with emphasis on Gen Ed assessment
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.