

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

The General Education Committee met Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in Rothwell 308.  
The following were present:

Dr. Christine Austin	Dr. Patrick Hagge
Dr. Jackie Bowman	Dr. Theresa Herrick
Ms. Cheryl Chaney	Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim
Ms. Nancy Cox	Ms. Karen Riddell
Ms. Gwen Faulkenberry	Dr. David Roach
	Dr. Jeremy Schwehm

Absent: Taylon Fowler, Dr. Thomas Nupp

**Call to Order** Dr. Bowman called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Ms. Cox asked for one amendment to the minutes. The word “Qualitative” was used when it should have said “Quantitative” in the Goals section. Dr. Hagge made a motion to approve the minutes with this amendment. Dr. Chaney seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Goals** Dr. Bowman asked the committee if they had been able to speak with the other faculty and department heads about the LEAP Goals. The committee discussed whether it was the LEAP goals or the Passport goals that they wanted to approve. Dr. Bowman said that would need to be a part of the discussion once a motion was made. Dr. Bowman then asked for a motion to approve one of them and then the committee could discuss. Dr. Chaney made a motion to approve the LEAP goals. Dr. Schwehm seconded the motion. Dr. Bowman then asked for discussion on the goals. Dr. Herrick commented she felt more time was needed to look at the LEAP and Passport goals and discuss with other faculty. Dr. Bowman reminded the committee this would also still have to go to the Curriculum Committee which would mean waiting until the next year and that ADHE was pushing for them. Dr. Herrick said she understood that, but she still felt there needed to be a more thorough discussion on this. She said it could be on the table for next year to discuss and figure out where we stood. Dr. Bowman commented if that was the case, she would recommend summer homework for the committee members to work on this. Dr. Austin commented she would like to see all of the general education goals assessed because even the ones we have now, have not been assessed as a whole. Dr. Bowman commented that some of them had been assessed, but not all. Dr. Bowman felt adopting new goals would essentially force everyone to assess the goals pertinent to their area. Dr. Austin pointed out that the Passport goals had rubrics which could be used to help assessment. Dr. Austin also reminded the committee there was barely four years until the next accreditation visit and that we are basically at the same spot as we were at the last

couple of visits. She also felt summer homework would be necessary. Dr. Herrick felt the committee needed help from someone with clout to enforce the assessment. She also commented that the committee needed to set up a schedule for assessing the goals. Dr. Bowman said she had that schedule on the agenda. Dr. Herrick said the committee needed to let the faculty that teach general education courses know they would need to be able to identify and articulate what was being taught. She felt they should also take a look at the syllabi to see what was being done in courses. Dr. Schwehm thought the rubrics provided by the Passport goals would be a real help in reviewing the goals. Dr. Chaney asked which general education goals were not being assessed presently. The committee discussed which ones had been assessed and told Dr. Austin some had been assessed in 2014 and that information was in CPGE in Banner. They discussed that there is a report somewhere and they thought Wyatt Watson would have that report. Dr. Bowman said some of the tools they use could be made to fit with Passport. Dr. Herrick commented there was a problem with continuity and new committee members being aware of what had already been done. Dr. Bowman thought the goals were good when they were implemented, but looking at what others are doing now, she felt we needed to “up our game” and that we need to have goals that are measurable. Dr. Herrick felt before the committee went any further, all of the information needed to be pulled together and presented.

Dr. Schwehm wanted to discuss which goals (Passport of LEAP) fit more with what Tech does and what frame of reference to use to determine this. The committee discussed that ADHE wanted Passport, but that LEAP and Passport are compatible, so no matter which is chosen, they will work together. LEAP has 16 goals while Passport only has 9. Dr. Schwehm felt, since he does not teach or develop general education courses, he would be unbiased on any of the issues, but he did want to have some reference to go by.

The committee discussed which committee members would still be on the committee next year and found there would only be a couple of new members, so most would know what was going on when the committee started back up in the fall.

Dr. Bowman asked for a vote on the motion to approve the LEAP goals. Motion failed.

Dr. Schwehm made a motion to look at the Passport goals framework and assign sub-committees to work on different learning outcomes over the summer. Motion carried.

The committee then made assignments to three sub-committees:

Oral Communication; Written Communication; Individual, Teamwork and Value Systems – Cox, Schwehm, and Nupp

Natural Sciences, Quantitative Literacy and Critical Thinking – Chaney,  
Bowman, Herrick

Human Cultures, Human Society and Creative Expression – Ibrahim, Hagge,  
Faulkenberry

Dr. Austin commented that on Passport there is not really a rubric for criteria. Dr. Bowman said Purdue and Illinois State had some good rubrics the committee might want to look at. Dr. Austin said she would start working on collecting syllabi. Dr. Hagge asked for some clarification and the committee discussed that they were looking at Passport goals and how what we already have fits with Passport and where any holes might be. Then they could look at the syllabi once Dr. Austin gets those collected. Dr. Bowman told the committee to look at the goals and ask themselves if those were the goals they want for our student when they leave here.

Orientation Dr. Bowman told the committee she and Ms. Riddell had decided the best way to present the orientation materials would be to put them in a Blackboard shell. That way the documents would be easily found, but password protected. The things she felt should be added would be the Proposal to the Faculty Senate that has the purpose of the committee, the goals for the year, tasks (what we do as a committee), a flow chart of where decisions are reported, reports (need to go to VPAA, Assessment Committee, Faculty Senate, Registrar), committee membership, historical documents, syllabi, and a review schedule for the year. For the chair of the committee, a “how to do learning outcomes” paper and an important people list should be added. This site will be for the General Education Committee and would help with the continuity of the committee. New members would need to be given access as soon as they are elected. Dr. Bowman will get the shell set up and Ms. Riddell will maintain it.

Dr. Bowman told the committee to make sure the review schedule was the first thing on the agenda for next year since she would no longer be on the committee, unless she is reassigned by the Faculty Senate. Dr. Herrick reminded the committee the Wellness goal also needed to be addressed since it had been put on hold.

Adjournment Dr. Roach made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Herrick seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm