

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

The General Education Committee met Wednesday, April 25 at 12:00 p.m. in Brown 355. The following were present:

Dr. Christine Austin
Cheryl Chaney
Katy Dodd
Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim
Dr. Cathi McMahan

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

Absent: Dr. David Blanks, Dr. Pam Carr, Tkeyah McDaniel

Minutes Dr. Ibrahim asked the committee if they would like to vote on the minutes from the last three meeting as a block. Dr. Schwehm made a motion to vote on the minutes as a block. Dr. Chaney seconded the motion. Dr. Schwehm made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. McMahan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Member Dr. Ibrahim told the committee that he and Dr. Austin had met with Dr. Bridgmon, Interim VP for Academic Affairs, to discuss adding the Director of Assessment as a member of the General Education Committee to guide the process of assessment. Dr. Bridgmon advised them that this would need to go through the Faculty Senate for approval. Dr. Nupp asked if this position would be as a voting member and Dr. Ibrahim told him it would not be a voting position. Dr. Schwehm said that once the committee put together the request, he would take it to Faculty Senate and that their next meeting would be May 1. Dr. Ibrahim commented that Dr. Austin is also on several other committees and could help communicate what the General Education Committee is doing.

Dr. Ibrahim told the committee that he and Dr. Austin had also discussed with Dr. Bridgmon that when assessing competency, capstone projects should also be included in the assessment. These will show that the student has met the goals. The committee discussed the different kind of projects used in departments including capstone projects, internships and exit portfolios that could be used in the assessment. Dr. Bridgmon had also advised that the committee did not have to have 100% participation from every course, as long as you have a good sampling to show HLC that we are meeting he goals. Dr. Austin commented that HLC would just need to know that we have a process in place to do our assessment of General Education and that we do have that in the CPGE system.

The committee then discussed what goal to start with next year and decided on written communication.

Meeting Times

Dr. Ibrahim told the committee that in his meeting with Dr. Bridgmon, they had also spoken about a regular meeting time for the General Education Committee to enable all members to attend. He said Dr. Bridgmon had told him that the meeting time would be up to the committee to choose. The committee discussed this and decided whichever Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 pm that is not already being used by Faculty Senate, Curriculum Committee or Graduate Council would be best and they would like their teaching schedules arranged around this time. They thought this would be difficult for this coming semester, but would be more manageable in coming semesters. Ms. Riddell will get with Ms. Pat Chronister to check on this time.

Dr. Ibrahim said Dr. Bridgmon had suggested the committee chair go to college meetings when there was something the General Education Committee needed to communicate or when they needed the colleges help. He had also suggested they start meeting regularly with him.

The committee then discussed the first meeting of the fall semester and determined they would like to have a full meeting instead of the 15-minute meeting usually scheduled. The Curriculum Committee and Faculty Senate have lunch meetings with actual agendas during the Monday and Tuesday before classes start and they would like to do that too. Ms. Riddell said that she would ask to get this put on the Organizational Activities schedule for this fall.

Other Business

Dr. Austin told the committee she had been working with Dr. Gunter on the Strategic Plan and needed input from this committee on Goal 2, action item #5. This action item states “Develop a strategy to review and modify all academic and co-curricular programs, and general education curricula (including additions and eliminations of programs no longer viable) to promote high academic standards, ensure currency within the field of study, and address current and future workforce trends”. She said she needed some end goals. What would the plan look like in 5 years? What does General Education look like and what direction will it go?

Dr. Schwehm thought the committee needed to come to the fall meetings ready to look at the rubrics that were put together and review the entire General Education process so that the goals can be reviewed on a cycle. He also commented that it would be the committee using the rubrics; the faculty will not have to do that.

The committee then again discussed starting with Written Communication and possibly Critical Thinking in the fall. Ms. Dodd mentioned the Ozark

campus had recently restructured their Composition I course to be more in line with the value rubric that would be used and that the major papers they require are fairly standard. The committee discussed evaluating the Critical Thinking goal and determining whether all courses that are claiming to meet this criteria are actually doing that and if so, how they are assessing it.

The committee discussed that there are still a couple of items that need to be finalized, such as adding the Civic Involvement and removing the Wellness Concepts goals.

Dr. Austin told the committee she would send out another email reminding faculty to assess their courses.

Dr. Ibrahim thanked the committee for the good work they had done this semester.

Adjourn 12:55 p.m.