

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

The General Education Committee met Thursday, 12 March 2020 in Brown 355. The following were present:

Dr. Erin Clair	Dr. Christine Austin	Dr. Jeremy Schwehm
Dr. Rajib Choudhury	Dr. Arwen Taylor	Ms. Katy Dodd
Dr. Alaric Williams	Dr. David Blanks	

The following were absent:

Ms. Ashtyn Mondy	Dr. Jay Post	Mr. Steven Junker
Dr. David Ward	Dr. Wan Wei	Dr. John O'Connor

Minutes        Dr. Blanks called the meeting to order and asked the committee for a motion to approve the minutes of the 13 February 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved.

**“Reports from Sub-Committees”**

Dr. Blanks addressed Item 3 on the agenda, “Reports from Sub-Committees”, and discussed the Grant Sub-Committee’s work on developing a vision and working on the Mellon Grant proposal so we have funding to make big General Education changes. The committee is waiting to write the grant until we get external reader reports and the survey data from the Data Collection Sub-Committee. Dr. Schwehm said Ms. Mondy is transcribing notes from two focus groups, and they will get together to do baseline analysis of qualitative and quantitative data. This should be ready by the next meeting. Concerning Program Review, Dr. Clair said the self-study is complete, and that has been sent to the external reviewers. We will arrange a virtual meeting for its review hopefully on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**“HLC on General Education”**

Dr. Blanks referred to Item 4 on the agenda and the document “Proposal for HLC”, and Dr. Clair said one concern is how to move forward and what plans we will communicate to HLC. This is something the committee needs to discuss, because these plans need to be stated very clearly. Dr. Blanks said he was not sure greater flexibility would be best when it comes to some departments trying to skirt humanities courses. Dr. Austin said this is preliminary, but how we define this is based on ADHE requirements as well as our own constructed requirements. We need faculty to unite and communicate, so everyone isn’t teaching something different. Dr. Clair stated that Stage 1 of the reform is in the HLC report, but Stage 2 is about faculty generated reforms. Dr. Blanks asked if it was okay to hold off on finalizing this until May, because of the grant and the data. Dr. Clair said yes,

because all of that goes in the report as well and she would bring a draft to us at the next meeting to help us decide what we think.

Dr. Austin said it would be good if all programs could show how General Education made their degree possible. Dr. Schwehm agreed, and said now would be a natural time to start asking that all information be entered into Blackboard.

“Other Business: Committee Appointments”

Dr. Clair asked when we should ask about appointments for the committee. Dr. Blanks said before the end of the semester. Dr. Austin asked if there was an incentive to get people to attend. Dr. Blanks said it is a voluntary position, so we should discuss their responsibilities with members who do not show up and perhaps include department heads in the conversation. Dr. Schwehm said this is why he requested a standing date, and he was curious about appointment as well since faculty are asking how to get their courses accepted to General Education. Dr. Clair said the new form is helping with broadening understanding of what General Education is, and we’ll continue to look at this as the process continues.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.