

**Plymouth State University
General Education Committee**

DRAFT MINUTES

Monday, April 9, 2007
2:30-3:30 PM—Hub 123

Scribe: Lourdes

Present: Lisa Lindgren (Chair), Mary Campbell, Robert Miller, David Zehr, John Krueckeberg, Cathie LeBlanc, Filiz Otucu (observer), Lourdes Aviles Scott Mantie (Guest)
(Gaye Gould and Bob Fitzpatrick were not present)

- I. The meeting was called to order at 2:33pm
- II. The Approval of the minutes was tabled until everybody has a chance to look at them. John Krueckeberg provided an amendment to the March 12 minutes regarding the topic that he brought up for discussion on that day.
- III. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Council
 - i. No report - EC has not met.
 - b. Curriculum Committee
 - i. No report (committee has not met)
- IV. New Business
 - A. Art – Cynthia Vascak

Motion: Approve AR 2xxx Table Manners: Handmade for the Table as a Creative Thought Direction. Moved by Cathie/2nd by John.

Concerns expressed: no required use of information technology in syllabus, only 12 students, lack of assessment details in syllabus.

Responses: internet research can be required, studio size and resources limits the number of students (more sections could address this problem; hoping to increase capacity to 20 students in the future); provost had no concern about number of students, rest of committee members were satisfied with assessments.

Other comments: if moved from experimental to regular course, has to come back for approval after passing curriculum

Passed – 6-0-0-2

B. Discussion of Gen Ed Program Assessment

There was a back and forth discussion about assessment philosophy and strategies. Scott Mantie and committee members.

Summary of the points made during discussion

- Need to define exactly what questions we want answered (S. Mantie)
 - o This will drive the rest of the process
- NSSE most likely not the most useful instrument for our purpose, but could use mixed methods with appropriate NSEE parts (S. Mantie)
- Three Domains: Academic Skills (writing, etc.), Goals (attitudes), Categories (other kinds of learning – life skills) (R. Miller)
- Would like to also assess administrative (number of seats, practicality) (L. Aviles) and holes in the program (is there something not covered?) (C. LeBlanc)
- No matter how abstract or general the question, there are ways to do it (S. Mantie)
- Three major aspects of the program that can be assessed cognitive (skills, knowledge), affective (attitudes), operational. (S. Mantie, other members)

There was a back and forth discussion of how to go about defining out top priorities, as that could be the first step toward defining the questions that we want answered.

Scott Mantie will “reduce” the Gen Ed document for us using objective techniques. We can use this as a starting point for discussion about goals and questions to be answered. He will be back for our next meeting.

C. Announcements from the Dean’s office

- The paper evaluations have been distributed
 - o Some responses already
- The electronic evaluations will be distributed soon
 - o Once again iPod incentive
 - o Will talk to instructors that had high response rates for strategies

Other announcements:

Heads up about upcoming proposals (for pre-approval if all materials make it in time)

The meeting adjourned at 3:27pm.