

**GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY  
Monday, February 24, 2003  
3:30 p.m.  
101 Whitehurst Conference Room**

**Present:** J. Comer, J. Fowler, G. Gates, J. Hattey, B. Ivy, N. Jones, B. Masters, C. Moder, J. Nelson, R. Nolan, R. Rohrs, S. Thompson, J. Wallin

Meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Because schedules have changed since establishing the GEAC meeting schedule last fall, Council agreed to revise the next two meeting dates from Thursday, March 13 to Monday, March 10, and Thursday, April 17 to Monday, April 7. Meetings will begin at 3:30 p.m. in 101 Whitehurst Conference Room.

G. Gates announced the postponement of agenda item #4 (HLC/NCA General Education Assessment). This item was to be presented by Brenda Masters who was forced (due to weather conditions), to attend the meeting via conference call.

**1. General Education Assessment Results**

N. Jones informed members that the GE Assessment Task Group has developed a model for assessing the general education program focusing on two areas; (1) assessing student achievement of the learner goals for general education as described in the OSU General Education Course Area Designations –Criteria and Goals 2000, and (2) assessing the general education curriculum itself.

Findings for Written Communication Skills Assessment indicate that although the sample is small, some patterns are emerging from the writing skills assessment data. (Details included in annual report summary)

The task group determined that logistical constraints prevented the development of an institutional portfolio for assessing student oral communication skills.

The number of math artifacts is too small to make meaningful interpretations for the Math Skills Assessment. Use of three lower-level math courses and a junior level agricultural economics course for assessment of math skills limits generalizability of the data. Artifacts are being collected to test the science reasoning rubric. Preliminary data suggest that, as with writing skills, transfer students do not perform as well as students who start as first-time freshmen at OSU.

Gates informed members that the General Education Task Force will become an official sub committee of the General Education Advisory Council and the Assessment Council.

## 2. National Survey of Student Engagement Results

J. Wallin pointed out to Council members that data for this survey were collected for OSU students in 2000, and the results were very similar to the 2002 data collection. G. Gates indicated that OSU's *Level of Academic Challenge* and *Enriching Educational Experiences* benchmark scores are particularly low when compared to those of peer institutions. The information obtained will be used in preparation for accreditation in three years; therefore, OSU should address the issues and concerns indicated in the survey. Changes in both general education and college curriculum will be needed. This survey was presented to the Instruction Council February 7 with a request to review data for OSU and their college with faculty. The Associate Deans will discuss appropriate next steps in approximately one month. Teaching workloads and issues regarding resource-related issues should be addressed, and faculty should help develop an overall university strategy. The survey results have been shared with Mary Chicoine, who is working on OSU's strategic plan. Wallin will send the questions and college-level data utilized in the survey.

## 3. ENVR 4573 – Ethical Issues in Agriculture and the Environment – Request for “H” Designation

J. Hattey gave an overview of this course and the request for an “H” designation. He reminded members that this course was denied GE credit a year ago due to the number of prerequisites, and these have since been removed. Some members of the Council were concerned about departments outside of the College of Arts and Sciences offering general education courses. Council does not believe the course meets Criteria 1 requirement for Humanities designation. For comparison purposes, Council agreed to table this request until March 10 at which time a number of similar courses having “H” designations are scheduled for five-year reviews.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

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Copies to: Jack Vitek  
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