

MINUTES
GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
Thursday, September 25, 2003
3:30 pm
101 Whitehurst Conference Room

Attending: Jeffory Hattey, Brenda Masters, Jon Comer, Robert Nolan, Nigel Jones, Stacy Thompson, Bill Ivy, Julie Wallin, and Gail Gates

1. Dr. Gates distributed the April 2000 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Policy Statement on Undergraduate Degree Requirements and Articulation, and asked that the committee review the section on general education. The council discussed the state regent's recommendation that general education be offered as both lower and upper division courses.

2. Overview of new courses to be reviewed

The committee was asked to review the courses submitted for new general education designation (located on the website at www.okstate.edu/genedcourses and bring comments to the October 8, 2003 meeting.

3. Proposed new **introduction to** the "Oklahoma State University Criteria and Goals for General Education Courses"

The General Education Assessment Committee met this summer and proposed changes to OSU's criteria and goals for general education. GEAC Members agreed in principle with the proposed changes to the introduction. However, some members expressed concerns that "Enhance the student's skills in communicating effectively" did not adequately describe spoken, written, and nonverbal communication.

The proposed second paragraph in the introduction referred to "5 content areas", this needs to be changed to "4 content areas" (designations "A", "H", "S" and "N") with the statement "in addition, "I" and "L"" because "I" and "L" are not separate content areas required by the Regents.

4. Proposed new Criteria and Goals for the **area designations** in the "Oklahoma State University Criteria and Goals for General Education Courses"

GEAC agreed that writing is needed in all general education courses to enhance students' ability to communicate effectively. This will help address the limited writing assignments reported by OSU students in NSSE. "Students will demonstrate their understanding through written work that provides students the opportunity to enhance their writing skills" was added to "A", "S", "N", "I", and "L" designations.

Members agreed that critical analysis and problem solving should also be included in each of the designations. The committee recommended that the

“H”, “S”, and “I” designations address critical analysis and the “A” and “I” problem solving.

A – Analytical and Quantitative Thought

Under Goals, item “b”, it was suggested that the wording be changed to: “Students will form inferences using logical systems and mathematical information and communicate to others.”

H – Humanities

Under Goals, item “c”, it was suggested that the wording be changed to: “Students will demonstrate their understanding through extensive written work that provides students the opportunity to enhance their writing skills”.

S – Social and Behavioral Sciences

Under Goals, item “a” was modified to read “Students will explore generalizations about society and theoretical structures.”

N – Natural Sciences

Goals, item “d” needs to be moved to item “a”.

5. Other changes to the revised “Oklahoma State University Criteria and Goals for General Education Courses”

It was also suggested that a description of extensive writing skills could be added to the General Education Course Form. Due to budget and resource restraints, the committee agreed it might be more feasible to require the upper division courses to have more extensive writing requirements than lower division courses.

Brenda Masters will make corrections/suggestions to the general education criteria and goals for review.

6. Other Business

Comments were made regarding the need to develop a training program for Teaching Assistants and faculty on use of general education assessment rubrics taught by members of the committee.

7. Adjournment: 5:00 p.m.