

Youngstown State University  
**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
Meeting: January 31, 2012, 4:00 – 5:00 pm, Tod Hall

Present: Rowlands, Porter (chair), Tomhave, Ball, Garr, Crist, Beebe, Sturru, Felix, Curnalia, Lowry, Baker, Stringer

Approval of Minutes of Nov 30, 2011 meeting – tabled. Minutes will be distributed for approval via email.

ASSESSMENT

- ROADS project – Identification of upper division courses to be used for data collection on assessment of student writing has been fairly successful. Colleges/Departments which have not responded will be re-contacted by Dr. Porter.
- A joint meeting of the Assessment Council and Gen Ed committee is planned for Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm in Kilcawley – room tba.
- Assessment council report – Sharon Stringer – National Survey data on assessment of learning is being examined. Data was requested from YSU on Collegiate Learning Assessment. Assessment Council will be examining the tools used in the National Survey and in ROADS. Since Standardized testing is expensive, we need to select tools which will provide the most useful data.
- Names have been solicited from departments, with courses in the Gen Ed domains, to form panels to assess learning outcomes in those courses. These panels will review the learning outcomes, and discuss criteria and learning strategies to make sure they meet the Gen Ed guidelines.
- Domain Assessment needs to be mapped so that each domain is assessed in a 3-5 year cycle – writing this year, speech or critical thinking when?

TRANSITIONING

- Advising/ SOAR will begin March 2. Curriculum sheets need to be updated so that students may be informed about the new and old Gen Ed model options and they can select which model they will follow. Advisors have been informed and some departments have met with Dr. Porter to be advised on transitioning to the new model. The concern is where faculty plays a major role in advising. Departments will be encouraged to schedule a training session for their advising faculty either with Dr. Porter or the academic advisors for their colleges.
- Gen Ed video – intended to show at SOAR and other venues to publicize the new model has stalled. Media services will be contacted to follow up.

INDEPENDENT LAB PROPOSAL – GEN ED COURSE OFFERING

- The science departments have had mixed responses to the proposed (Gary Walker) independent lab course. Since most lab courses in the sciences are attached to a corresponding lecture course, the science departments have been unable to come to a consensus on whether a stand-alone lab course is an appropriate way of meeting the general education laboratory requirement. Language will have to be clear on whether a stand-alone lab can meet the requirement or not. Science departments will have to reach a consensus before this issue is brought before the Senate.

## DANA SCHOOL OF MUSIC PROPOSAL

- Last year, when the General Education Committee was determining which courses would be included in the new model, four Music History & Lit courses MUHL 3771-3774 were removed from the list. This has resulted in Music Ed majors needing an extra 6 hours of A&H electives (where the MUHL courses were offered) so that credits-to-graduation exceed the current program requirement for 144 s.h. Their accrediting body recommends that most programs require about 120s.h. so YSU's program may have to advise the MUED major as a 5-yr degree program. This could result in loss of enrollment for the program. Dr. Michael Crist requested that the Gen Ed committee reinstated those courses to meet the old model. However the guidelines suggest that a Gen Ed course should be widely accessible to all students, and traditionally the pre-req for the MUHL 3700 courses was a course taken only by music majors. It was suggested that perhaps substituting a lower level pre-req would make these courses available to "band geeks" in other majors. Dr. Porter thought it would be more appropriate for FPA to resubmit those courses for approval as Gen Ed offerings.

Next meeting to be scheduled on a Tuesday in Feb at 4:00 p.m. to allow Gen Ed report at March Senate.

Respectfully submitted.

Zara C. Rowlands