

Minutes of GER Committee Meeting (Revised)

October 19, 2010

Members present: Armstrong, Beebe, Ball, Bonhomme, Curnalia, Munro, O'Mansky, Stringer, Porter (Chair)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

1. The minutes of the October 12, 2010, meeting were approved, as revised by corrections in the spelling of attendees' names.
2. The October 1, 2010, draft of the Repository Policy was distributed and discussed. The draft was revised to read as follows. The draft will be submitted for comment to the Academic Senate at its November meeting.

Repository Policy

One of the primary goals of the General Education program is to ensure that students write effectively. To assess whether this goal is being achieved students will be required to upload four writing samples to the Repository of Assessment Documents. The first document will be from an assignment given in the second English composition course (ENGL 1551). The assignment will be selected by the Composition Program Director. The other three documents will be samples of writing related to the student's major.

Academic departments are responsible for giving their students assignments to develop their writing skills and become proficient in the types of writing specific to their discipline. To document this, starting in the 2011-12 academic year departments will require their majors to upload writing samples. Beginning in the spring semester of 2013 departments will be responsible for verifying that all students have uploaded at least three samples of their writing from courses in their major prior to graduation.

For each of their majors, departments will identify assignments that students will upload. All of the writing samples must have been written to complete a graded assignment for a course; no more than two of the three assignments can come from a single course. The writing samples should be between 1,200 and 4,000 words and should demonstrate the use of critical thinking within the major. It is recommended that one of the documents be related to a capstone or senior-level project. Any guidelines or assignment prompts related to the writing sample should be provided in an electronic format to the students so they can copy and paste those directions into the document being submitted.

4. The current draft of the Core Competencies was discussed. The draft was revised to read as follows.

Core Competencies

Goals

Students will demonstrate the ability to write and speak effectively, reason quantitatively, and think critically so they are prepared to perform appropriately in their professions upon graduation. These skills will be applied in the major and culminate in the successful completion of a senior capstone project.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to write and speak effectively, develop sound arguments, and derive justified conclusions.
 2. Students will demonstrate the ability to reason using quantitative data, and students will demonstrate use of mathematical methods and concepts in both abstract and concrete contexts.
 3. Students will demonstrate the ability to reason critically and identifying credible sources.
 4. The current draft version of the Natural Science domain was discussed. The draft was revised and approved to read as follows.
5. The current draft of the Natural Science Competencies was discussed. The draft was revised to read as follows.

Natural Science

Goals

Students will demonstrate understanding of the basic facts, principles, theories and methods of science. The students will demonstrate understanding of the interdependence of science and technology and the influence of science and technology on society.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will successfully perform an experiment to test a hypothesis including the collection and analysis of data.
2. Students will demonstrate the knowledge and application of scientific principles.

3. Students will use and interpret formulas, graphs and tables.
4. Students will demonstrate understanding of the interactions of science, technology and society.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Submitted by Bob Beebe, One-term GER secretary (for obvious reasons)