

# Minutes

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General Education Council  
Friday, December 19, 2007

## **Attendance:**

Maurianne Adams, Mokhtar Atallah, Gail Cruise, Alexandrina Deschamps, Isabel Espinal, Ginger Etinde, Robert Faulkner, David Fleming, Judy Goodenough, Kevin Klement, Randall Knoper, Mark Leckie, Ernie May, Dori McCracken

## **Minutes:**

The minutes of November 16, 2007 were passed by the Council pending minor change in Information Literacy description by Anne C. Moore.

## **Report from Assessment Subcommittee:**

The subcommittee has agreed to revise the current Gened course evaluation form, incorporating the necessary rubric which will thoroughly evaluate a gened course. It was suggested that the updated forms and information be stored in a web-based database, with MS Word being the preferred program. The subcommittee also expressed interest in developing a faculty survey which would examine how the faculty's course meets the gened requirements.

## **Report from the Gened Task Force:**

The task force recommended including a texting and email interface with the online course description so that students could contact the instructor(s) or the Faculty Director for Advising Center for clarification about why they need to take the course as a gened requirement, as some students may be unsure about their need to take the course. The task force also recommended that an explanation to the student about why the course is gened designated, be included on the syllabus as well as the learning goals and objectives for the semester. This will provide better articulation for the student. The task force noted that in the coming months, they would need to obtain administrative support for their new ventures. Ernie May suggested that the task force must try to request more available seats in gened classes as well as revamp the way gened is administered—possibly reducing the number of gened requirements and increasing the quality of gened courses. He proposed more fully spreading gened courses across a student's four years at UMass, and allowing students to take desired/major courses in their first and second year, along with the gened's, rather than only reserving the first & second year for gened's only. This will enable the student to complete some of their 'major' courses by the time they reach their junior and senior years, and in turn, help the student to graduate on time, since there's less chance of them having to reapply for a course because it was full.

## **Voting:**

CEE 211, "Perspectives on the Evolution of Structures" SI                      PASSED (with recommendations)

A response was written to the Gened Council regarding general education from Tobias Baskin. Mark Leckie agreed to contact Dr. Baskin regarding this.

**Next Meeting:** Friday February 15, 2008 at 2:30 PM, in the Chancellor's Board Room, 370 Whitmore.