

General Education Committee
Mississippi State University
February 16, 2018

Present: Amy Adkerson, Tracey Baham, Randy Campbell, Amy Crumpton, Ed Dechert, Dana Franz, Kevin Hunt, Brenda Kirkland, Andy Perkins, Kayla Pineda, Chien Yu

Franz called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, February 16, 2018 in room 217 of Garner Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to go review the current general education plan and to discuss the new SACSCOC principles related to general education assessment.

Baham discussed the movement of General Education assessment during the SACSCOC winter conference in December of 2017. The committee discussed whether the university should continue to assess general education based on course level assessment, and whether the learning outcomes should be revised.

When looking at the 2016-2017 Institutional Effectiveness (IE) report, Yu asked if there was a reason why there were only a select few courses being assessed. Adkerson responded saying that there were a list of 20 courses in the Course Catalog that were selected to be used for general education assessment. It was then noted that not everyone who is asked for data responds, leaving a gap in the general education IE report. Franz suggested that the General Education Committee should send out a letter informing units that they must respond to the data requests or be removed from the general education curriculum.

Baham presented the results of the ETS Proficiency Profile exam as one of the ways that the university evaluates its general education. MSU compares favorably to its Carnegie R1 and R2 peers, and in many areas outperforms these peers; however, more work is needed in social sciences and humanities. The committee discussed the merits of using the ETS Proficiency Profile as a metric of these learning domains.

One potential alternative that was brought up was using rubrics, such as the AAC&U rubrics, which would provide commonality among units. These rubrics could be applied to many different assignments throughout different departments. Baham mentioned that the College of Arts and Sciences has begun a social sciences workgroup to consider a common rubric across all social sciences classes. If this initiative is success, the committee could consider expanding this model.

The committee decided to revise the current outcomes. There will be a retreat in May where further discussion will take place. The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.