

General Education Committee Meeting
Mississippi State University
September 25, 2015

Present: Amy Adkerson, Tracey Baham, Amy Crumpton, Robert Harland, Kelly Moser, Kayla Mouchett, Bob Otondo, Andy Perkins, Kirk Swortzel, Jenny Turner

Absent: Russell Carr, Kevin Hunt

Swortzel called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m. on Friday, September 25, 2015 in Room 210 of Lloyd Ricks Watson. Moser moved to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2015 meeting. Crumpton seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Swortzel announced he had an ETS Proficiency Test example for committee members to review the critical thinking questions, but the example is not the version MSU uses. MSU uses a 36 question test, and the example that was provided to Swortzel is a 108 question test. At a previous General Education Committee meeting, committee members asked for an example of a critical thinking question.

Committee members were provided with a copy of the General Education Institutional Effectiveness/Assessment Report. Swortzel provided an overview of the report. Committee members discussed the results of the national examination ETS Proficiency Profile and the results it revealed about the students that transfer to MSU and whether the transfer students are getting the rigor they need in core courses at community colleges. Baham and Swortzel will meet and discuss how to best approach this issue.

New Business

Swortzel distributed a handout that outlined the MSU general education courses. Kayla Mouchett and Jenny Hartness from Institutional Effectiveness helped prepare the handout, and general education courses with enrollments of less than 100 students are highlighted on the handout. Committee members questioned why 3000 and 4000 level courses are general education courses. A committee member suggested that the higher level general education courses in foreign languages may have been approved because many students “test out” of lower level foreign language courses. Committee members also discussed whether general education courses should have prerequisites. A committee member asked if there should be rules for general education courses such as not requiring prerequisites for general education courses and a required ACT score for upper level general education courses.

Swortzel said it would be interesting to know how many general education courses peer institutions have. Swortzel will contact Southern Mississippi and the University of Mississippi to compile information about their general education courses and their review processes for general education courses.

Otondo moved to adjourn. Moser seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.