

## **General Education Committee Minutes**

**September 28, 2012**

**1:00-3:00 p.m.**

**LIB 475**

### **I. Introductions**

The following voting members were present: Nancy McCormick, Aimee Holt, Deana Raffo, Georganne Ross, Laura Dubek, Nate Phillips, Donald Kendrick (Chair), Douglas Timmons, Craig Carter, Christopher Herlihy, Dennis Powell, Horace Johns, Terri Tharp, Kari Neely, Dwight Brooks, and Rosalyn Brown (student).

Ex-Officio: Sheila Otto, Scott Carnicom, Jan Leone (for Mark Byrnes), James Beeby

Guests: Don Nelson (Math), Allison Smith (English), Tom Strawman (English), Peg McCree (Speech).

Absent: Ed Kimbrell, Charlene True, Heather Lambert, Kelley Benson (student), John Omachonu (Ex-Officio).

### **II. Committee Charge (Sheila Otto)**

### **III. Election of Officers**

Kari Neely (Liberal Arts, Foreign Lang. & Lit), Vice Chair  
Laura Dubek (Liberal Arts, English), Secretary

### **IV. Approval of Minutes: Meeting on April 20, 2012**

Discussion preceded the approval of the last meeting's minutes. Dennis Powell asked for clarification of the role of the Director of General Education in the approval of new courses. Powell objected to what he characterized as the Director "harpooning" CIA 1100, a new course approved at the April meeting and sent forward for TBR approval. Powell raised the question of whether the committee serves as an advisory board or whether its decisions stand. Discussion ended when the Chair made clear that when new courses are reviewed, three recommendations go forward: the committee's, the director's, and the provost's.

### **V. Assessment**

Sheila Otto surveyed the **history of general education assessment at MTSU**, stressing the amount of work that goes into assessment as well as the importance of each department documenting what they will do with the results. The four competencies—Math, Writing,

Speech, Critical Thinking—will be assessed every year. In a separate in-house process, every general education course will be reviewed every five years.

**Don Nelson presented the results of the Math assessment**, which showed improvement in all areas. Suggestions were made for strengthening sections #6 and #7, the two that TBR is most interested in. Committee members also suggested making a stronger argument against staffing MATH 1710 with GTA's and contingent faculty only.

**Peg McCree presented the results of the Speech assessment**, which she said showed a “quantum leap.” Suggestions were made for using the assessment report to strengthen the argument for more professional development for FTT's: more training = better outcomes.

**Allison Smith presented the results of the Writing assessment**, stressing the importance of taking a “long-range view” of data collected over five years. Suggestions were made for countering the impression that it looks like the English department is failing.

**Sheila Otto presented the results of the Critical Thinking assessment.**

**VI. Brief discussion of General Education Subcommittees: Assessment and Policies & Procedures**

**VII. New Initiatives for 2012-13**

Members raised logistical concerns about the idea of **an interdisciplinary course in the Social/Behavioral Sciences area**. The Chair expressed his desire for the committee to be “proactive” rather than “reactive.”

The LT & ITC will host roundtables for general education coordinators, who will be charged with generating ideas for professional development opportunities.

**VIII. Adjournment: 3 p.m.**