

MINUTES
General Education Committee
November 5, 2024
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Montecito Room

Members present: Gregg Afman (Professor of Kinesiology), Alister Chapman (Professor of History), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Director, Library & Information Services), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Tara Sturges (Recording Secretary, Associate Registrar), Telford Work (Chair, Professor of Religious Studies)

Absent: Michelle Hardley (Registrar)

Guests: Sarah Skripsky (Professor of English)

I. Prayer – Sarah Skripsky

II. The minutes from October 22, 2024

Review of the minutes from October 22, 2024, was postponed to the next meeting.

III. WI Syllabi Audit Report: Sarah Skripsky (Google Drive), Telford Work (E&B update)

The chair of the English department reviewed the provisional action steps noted on the WI Syllabi Audit report, including minor revisions, particularly in regard to the potential decoupling of the WI and SI GE requirements. Discussion included the proposal that ENG-002 be added as a prerequisite to all upper division WI courses to ensure students taking the courses in the latter category will be well-prepared to engage with higher-level material with improved outcomes as college graduate.

The committee approved the creation of a proposal to Academic Senate to recommend that ENG-002 be added as a prerequisite to all upper division WI courses. The drafting of the proposal will take place at a future meeting.

The chair of the GE Committee also provided an update on a recent conversation with the E&B department co-chairs. The co-chairs affirmed that their department's preference is to retain all five of their department's approved WI courses per their stance that writing proficiency is a critical skill in the business world, and the repetition of writing-intensive training will provide opportunities for high level of mastery in their graduates to prepare them for their future careers.

IV. The GE annual assessment report (Google Drive)

Discussion was postponed to a future meeting.

V. The Comm Studies Department's letter and the committee response (Google Drive)

During discussion, it was observed that oral communication is a required GE category in the CAL-GETC agreement, and Westmont students might be disadvantaged should the WS category to be removed from and/or not be explicitly required in Westmont's GE. It was further noted that oral communication is a critical skill that should be developed to best prepare graduates for their futures, including job interviews and the modern workplace. The committee considered drafting a proposal to academic senate with a recommendation to decouple the WI and WS GE requirements. The committee members wish to be thoughtful in approaching this task and will collaborate with stakeholders, including the director of Career Resource Center, the chair of the Communication department, and Academic Senate, to develop this proposal prior to formally submitting a final draft to Academic Senate. It was suggested that this category be revised to Communication Intensive and include a broader list of certification criteria that would allow for courses other than those with public speaking elements to contribute to this GE category. The inclusion of additional courses would enable the GE Committee to perform assessments required by WSCUC. Discussion also included a suggested plan for addressing this proposal with WSCUC during their next visit in Fall 2025.

VI. The JRD assessment: continuation

Discussion was postponed to a future meeting.

VII. Other Business

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Sturges