

Committee on General Education

Report to Faculty Senate for AY 2014-15

Committee Members: Derek Taylor (Chair), Lily Goetz, Melanie Marks, Sara Miller, Carl Riden (ex officio: David Lehr, Chris McGee, Ken Perkins, Ling Whitworth)

Expenditures: Out of a total budget of \$10,000 for AY 14-15, \$8650 has been allocated as follows:

1. Support for Moton Museum event (tied in with ENGL 400): \$650
2. Dues for ACTC (Association for Core Texts and Courses): \$2000
3. Support for faculty travel to ACTC conference: \$1000
4. Support for General Education Film Festival: \$2000
5. Support for faculty travel to AACU General Education Summer Institute: \$2,200
6. Miscellaneous assessment support (scoring sessions, etc.): \$800

Writing Intensive Syllabus Review: The committee elected to conduct a syllabus review for all WI courses in order to gauge progress in adopting the revised policy (implemented in AY 14-15). A copy of the full rubric used by the committee follows this report; directly below is a synopsis of the findings for fall 2014 (we will compare to spring 2015 numbers early in AY 15-16). Of the 92 syllabi surveyed, the committee found as follows:

	Yes	No	Unclear	%yes	%no	%unclear
Writing constitutes 31% of grade?	66	21	5	71%	23%	6%
Writing Instruction provided?	50	18	24	54%	20%	26%
At least 3000 words (or equivalent) over two papers?	50	14	28	54%	15%	31%
Grading Rubric provided?	39	44	9	42%	48%	10%
Chance for revision?	36	39	17	39%	43%	18%
WI Policy included?	17	75		18%	82%	

New/Revised General Education Courses: Only one proposal came our way this year: a revised course description and syllabus for ECON 111 (Goal 8). The committee unanimously supported this revision and passed materials on to EPC.

Assessment of General Education Courses: After consulting with the Office of Institutional Research, the committee decided to review assessment data for all general education courses on a three-year cycle. Since there are 14 goals, this entails dividing the work up into not-quite thirds—e.g., goals 1-4 in AY 14-15, goals 5-9 in AY 15-16, and goals 10-14 in AY 16-17. The current iteration of general education is slated to be replaced beginning in AY 17-18.

Respectfully submitted,
E. Derek Taylor, Director of General Education

**Review rubric for writing-intensive course syllabi
Writing Intensive Policy, 2014**

Course and Term:

Instructor:

Reviewer:

Date:

	No	Yes	Unclear	Comments
1. Writing assignments comprise at least 31% of final grade				
2. Demonstrates a commitment to providing discipline-specific writing instruction				
3. Requires a substantial amount of finished writing distributed between at least two assignments, not including essay exams ("a minimum of 3,000 words or the equivalent" depending on discipline)				
4. Provides a detailed assignment sheet and a rubric for each writing assignment or explains when and how these will be made available				
5. Provides students the opportunity to receive feedback on part or all of an assignment and to revise accordingly				
6. Indicates that WI requirement can only be fulfilled if a grade of C- or better is earned				