

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 12, 2015**  
**Minutes**

Attending: Gail Fernandez, Ann Brown, Denise Budd, Coleen DiLauro, Joshua Guttman, Christine Eubank, Alan Kaufman, Ilene Kleinman, Takvor Mutafoğlu, Tracy Saltwick, Andrew Tomko.

1. Meeting started at 12:35.
2. Gen Ed Round Table Update:
  - a. Coleen mentioned that the Vice President at Essex Community College had a lot of good things to say. She mentioned standardized tests and how they let the school know how they measured compared to other schools.
  - b. Passaic Community College: Have a type of five paragraph writing exit test that students must pass. Everyone graduating demonstrates certain criteria. The exam is given multiple times throughout the year. Students can choose a current event or topic pertaining to their field of study.
  - c. Some other highlights:
    - i. Alan Kaufman disagrees with Passaic's approach. There is no research on 5 paragraph essay. There are multiple ways to teach writing.
    - ii. Denise: it sounds like high school.
    - iii. Josh: it's not what a college student should do.
    - iv. Ilene: how can we assure that students, upon graduation, are competent in these gen ed goals?
    - v. Tracy: BCC's process is looking at students' overall skills.
    - vi. Gail: there are other types of writing that can demonstrate student competency
    - vii. We have an approval process for Gen Ed courses and our Gen Ed assessment is checking it.
3. Gen Ed Approval: Music 101 10 – 0 - 0
  - a. It's a gateway course. We offer multiple sections. Content and learning objectives have changed, but the course title never did. It aligns more with the LEAP outcomes and BCC gen ed goals.
4. Gen Ed Approval: Sustainability in Nature 10 – 0 – 0
  - a. Steve Fischer mentioned that the NJ lieutenant governor said she firmly supports the agricultural community. Horticulture and agriculture are NJ's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest industry
  - b. Andrew asked a question about 6 course hours equaling 4 credits. Yes, that is true.
  - c. We made clearer the prerequisite statement on the syllabus.

- d. This course appeals to students who are afraid of science, but need a science course for their gen ed requirement.
  - e. The course will be offered in the fall with a notation that gen ed status is pending.
5. Gen Ed assessment:
- a. How do we get more faculty participation?
    - i. Communication: ask department chairs to put gen ed assessment on their meeting agendas.
    - ii. Josh forwards the minutes of our meetings to his department.
    - iii. Will send an email from AVP office this week.
    - iv. Will send targeted letters to 200 level instructors.
  - b. Chair of Gen Ed mentioned that she and Dr. Kim will present our Gen Ed Assessment project at the AAC&U Conference on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>.
6. Critical Thinking Wording Letter: added the word “appropriate.”
7. Meeting adjourned at 1:20.

Submitted by Gail Fernandez