

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**November 13, 2014**  
**Minutes**

Attending: Gail Fernandez, Ann Brown, Denise Budd, Christine Eubank, Joshua Guttman, Gina Hermann, Kate Hossain, Takvor Mutafoğlu, Tracy Saltwick, Andrew Tomko

1. Meeting started at 12:35.
2. October Minutes accepted: 8 – 0 – 0
3. Reexamining BCC and NJ Gen Ed goals: (discussion)
  - a. History: There was tension about accepting the state gen ed goals so we developed our own.
    - i. The state slimmed down science. Discussions about whether to teach evolution or not. Our science goals were intentionally more demanding than the state's.
  - b. Should we require a language if the state requires it?
  - c. Should we honor the work of our colleagues?
  - d. If we present the changes to the Senate, there will probably be backlash.
  - e. Decision: We won't combine the BCC and NJ Gen Ed goals.
4. For information about state gen ed goals, go to the New Jersey Council of County Colleges website: <http://www.njccc.org/professional-resources/general-education-resources/>
5. Critical Thinking: (discussion)
  - a. The language used to describe critical thinking is department specific.
  - b. Do we help students if the language is different in all courses? Should we use words such as "analyze, identify, evaluate?" Refer to Bloom's Taxonomy.
  - c. Why do we need to say "critical thinking" on our syllabi?
    - i. To check the box?
    - ii. For Middle States?
    - iii. **To ensure academic integrity**
  - d. We need a level of consistency in what we say we do and actually do.
6. Syllabi:
  - a. Check Syllabi Central <http://www.bergen.edu/academics/syllabi-central>
  - b. We should tell our departments to make sure that the current syllabi are on Syllabi Central. Deans and dept. head should review all dept. syllabi.
  - c. Dept. Syllabi are given to adjuncts, and are uploaded to Syllabi Central. Instructor Syllabi are customized by the instructor.

- d. Should a statement about meeting Gen Ed standards be included on syllabi?
  - e. If dept. syllabi say students will be expected to write, then all faculty teaching that course should require it. It is not fair to students if some faculty require writing and others don't.
  - f. Dept. need to agree on what is expected in courses and should follow through.
7. Recommendations: The Gen Ed Committee will send a letter to deans and dept. heads:
- a. Recommend template phrases. For example:
    - i. Employ active reading strategies ...
    - ii. Requires students to complete a variety of critical thinking and writing assignments...
  - b. Reference Middle States
  - c. The Chair will draft a letter that will be revised by the Gen Ed Committee at the December meeting.
8. Gen Ed assessment: Remind colleagues that we are assessing Quantitative Literacy and Problem Solving.
9. Meeting adjourned at 1:30.

Submitted by Gail Fernandez