

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 2, 2014**  
**Minutes**

Attending: Gail Fernandez, Ann Brown, Denise Budd, Louis Crescitelli, Joshua Guttman, Gina Hermann, Kate Hossain, Takvor Mutafoğlu, Tracy Saltwick,

1. Meeting started at 12:30.
2. May Minutes accepted: 9 – 0 – 0
3. Briefly discussed the year's agenda:
  - a. Gen Ed assessment
  - b. Aligning the BCC Gen Ed goals, NJ Gen Ed goals and LEAP Outcomes more effectively
  - c. Reviewing our Gen Ed goals' objectives and their assessment
  - d. Establishing Learning Communities with Gen Ed courses'
4. General Education Report discussion
  - a. It was suggested to include the rubrics into the document.
  - b. The committee said the report was satisfactory. It will be posted on the website and shared at the Faculty Senate.
  - c. The Chair shared that the evaluators of the assessment project felt that some of the assignments and course requirements were uneven. Many assignments lacked a critical thinking component.
    - i. GEC discussion:
      1. Have workshops about critical thinking
      2. Hard for evaluators to judge the function of the assignment
      3. If we want students to do better, we need to raise the bar.
      4. Some courses, such as Introduction to Psychology, require students to have certain knowledge before they can think critically. So, assignments are often basic. It was suggested that if a student is given a theory and then asked for an example of it, that is critical thinking.
      5. What is it to be a critical thinker?
      6. The Argumentation and Debate class was full of critical thinking and the students were able to meet expectations.
      7. We need to think outside the box.
      8. We can get critical thinking through instructions that break down assignments into parts.
      9. How many four year colleges ask students to do research in their freshman year?

10. Kate Hossain observed that many assignments don't ask students for a thesis.
11. We should think about including the LEAP Outcomes in all syllabi.

5. Gen Ed Assessment 2014 – 2015:

- a. Follow up on the Information Literacy Assessment conducted by Judi Davis. We will review the Gen Ed syllabi to see if they include critical thinking opportunities.
  - b. We will ask Student Services to assess Personal and Social Responsibility, including Civic Knowledge and Engagement.
  - c. The Chair is attaching the LEAP Value Rubrics to the Minutes. In two weeks, she will send an email asking the Gen Ed Committee which goals they would like to assess.
6. Meeting adjourned at 1:20.

Submitted by Gail Fernandez

Attach LEAP rubrics.