

General Education Committee Meeting Agenda

November 28, 2022

1. Call the meeting to order
2. Approval of minutes from 10-4-21
Kirk Rogers moved to approve, Cora Taylor seconded, and the motion passed.
3. Data from ETS and Gen Ed
 - Review gen ed data as committee every year
The results from each assessment were reviewed and discussed by the committee. Based on the data, there were discussions around alter assessments. Dr. Lahr mentioned a need to look at altering a question in the Personal Finance assessment. Dr. Wickham also suggested working with Dr. Macai and the Science Department about potentially changing a question from the Biology assessment.
 - Findings from most recent round of collection
 - Critical thinking continues to be low
 - How do we improve this?
Discussion was held in regard to utilizing critical thinking terminology in classes as the members of the committee feel they are promoting critical thinking but the students might not recognize it when completing ETS or NSSE. If faculty will utilize terminology, perhaps it will be more familiar.
 - Why the disconnect between higher order thinking skills in general education assessments vs. standardized assessments?
Discussion continued about the use of terminology as there was a general consensus from members that they feel higher order thinking skills are being required but not framed to the students as critical thinking or higher order thinking.
 - How are we already doing this, and how do we make students aware?
Utilize terminology
 - Ideas to increase participation for ETS
Cora Taylor recommended advertising in ways that haven't been done in the past. Dr. Wickham recommended to continue incentivizing. Most of the committee felt the email to the advisor was helpful in participation.
 - What processes need to change as a result of data?
 - Any need for assessment modifications?
4. Consider moving toward a goal for percentage of students meeting acceptable or higher.
The committee felt it is important for departments to determine an acceptable level of performance for assessments. It seemed like overreach on the departments if the committee determined what is acceptable.
5. Discuss SLOs and how they're being reinforced in the classes that are not collecting data
Syllabi should have these but members of the committee should reach out to their department to remind faculty to reinforce where applicable.
6. Do we like where we are and where we are going? What actions need to be taken?

Discussion took place to encourage what was talked about earlier in the meeting. Increased participation in ETS and NSSE, critical thinking terminology, and changes to the assessments administered in Personal Finance and General Biology.

7. Regents proposed change to general education

Dr. Maier presented information about the Regents proposing a state system core for general education. Dr. Clark shared documents with the committee that outlined potential changes. Nothing had been done on the state level yet, but it was important to make everyone aware that changes could be coming. As such, it will delay any changes to NWOSU's general education as we await a direction from the state.

8. January 30 meeting to discuss new developments from Regents.

9. Adjourn

With no further business, Kirk Rogers moved to adjourn, Jason Wickham seconded, and the meeting adjourned.

General Education Data Observations – 11/28/22

General Education Course Data Snapshot

L1 – 63.67% acceptable ↓4.5%

L2 – 89 % acceptable or above ↑29%

L3 – 84.6% acceptable ↑1.6%

L4 – pre-test/post-test showed good gains with 77% at acceptable or target ↓19%

L5 – Questions 1 was 48% acceptable or above ↓33%; question 2 was 32% acceptable ↓49% ; and question 3 carried a 81% acceptable or above ↓3%

L6 – 94% acceptable or above ↑1%

L7 – 93% acceptable or above *no change*

C1 – 79.3% acceptable or above ↑2.5%

C2 – 89% acceptable or above ↓1%

C3 – 70.7% acceptable ↓0.5%

E1 92% acceptable or above ↑1%

E2 93% acceptable or above ↑2%

E3 87% acceptable or above ↓2%

NSSE – (Prepare for 2023)

Was not given in 2022 (every three years) – below is the information from the previous NSSE

Speaks to engagement. Are students participating in learning activities that relate to SLOs?

First year students: Significantly lower in Higher-Order Learning and Effective Teaching Practices than comparative Oklahoma schools and Carnegie Class and significantly lower in Reflective and Integrative Learning with the Carnegie Class. There were no significant differences in Learning Strategies, Discussions with Diverse Others, and Quality of Interactions. NWOSU students reported significantly higher than other Oklahoma schools in Student-Faculty Interaction.

Seniors: Significantly higher compared to Oklahoma schools in Student-Faculty Interaction; significantly higher compared to the Carnegie Class in Quality of Interaction; and significantly lower compared to the Carnegie Class in Collaborative Learning. Gains made among seniors, improving data.

Time spent for preparing for class is lower than comparative data.

ETS

2022 showed gains in all areas from previous years. Participation increased from 32 to 65 to 85 and overall mean from 431.5 to 444.6 to 439.74.

Data reported students were not proficient in Reading Level 2, Critical Thinking, Writing Level 2 and 3, and Mathematics Level 3 but showed a noticeable improvement in Critical Thinking and Mathematics Level 3 from the previous year. Although low in these areas, data were similar to the Carnegie Class for comparison. Compared to the Carnegie Class, NWOSU scored lower in only four areas, compared to eight the previous year.

Perhaps university discussion has improved critical thinking scores?