

**General Education Committee
Meeting Minutes for September 23, 2016**

Committee members attending: Amy Sayward, Nancy Caukin, Keying Ding, Phil Loubere, Mike Boyle, Virginia Hemby, Barbara F. Turnage, Greg Nagel, Brandi Lindsey, Zaf Khan

Ex-officio members attending: Sheila Otto, Peter Cunningham, Dawn McCormack (for Karen Petersen)

Guests attending: Mary Hoffschwelle

Business:

- Following a welcome from Nancy Caukin (the committee's chair) and introductions, the minutes of the April 2016 meeting were approved as amended [Physical Geography = PGEO1030] – moved by Barbara Turnage, seconded by Mike Boyle, and approved unanimously.
- Peter Cunningham charged the committee on behalf of the Provost. He also clarified that the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) had originally delegated power of general education matters to the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR), but with passage of the FOCUS Act, THEC is gathering back to itself power over general education matters for those universities that were previously part of the TBR system. He also talked about Curriculog, which is an electronic curriculum management system that will be used first by the University Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council but then will likely also be used by General Education and can be used to generate the course catalogs and can sync with the Banner system. This will allow for an on-line flow of documentation for course proposals from the originating faculty member/department through to final approval.
- Amy Sayward was elected (running unopposed) for the position of the committee's Vice Chair, and Virginia Hemby was elected (running unopposed) for the position of the committee's Secretary.
- Mary Hoffschwelle presented on MT Engage, including a brief history of the initiative and highlights of the first MT Engage Week. She also described the signature pedagogies of MT Engage courses as well as the incentives for students who participate. She talked about the initial focus on General Education courses, which is reflected in the numbers: 98 sections of MT Engage classes this Fall 2016 semester (of which 79 were General Education courses) with 1,974 students enrolled. She answered questions about the rubric, the role of graduate education in MT Engage, and the course proposal format in response to questions from committee members.
- Sheila Otto provided an outline of the General Education course proposal process. She reported that she was not aware of any proposals in the pipeline at this point, but she stressed that this was probably the single most important role of the committee.

- Sheila Otto also provided an overview of the two subcommittees' missions, which will be the focus of much of the committee's work in the Spring 2017 semester. Each committee member will serve on either the Assessment Subcommittee or the Policies & Procedures Subcommittee.
- General Education Competency Assessment reports on writing, oral communication, mathematics, and critical thinking are due on September 30th and will be the focus of the October 28, 2016 meeting (JUB 100).
- The November 18, 2016 meeting (JUB 100) will discuss new procedures for approving General Education courses.
- The committee adjourned at the conclusion of its business.