**General Education Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting on February 10, 2012
1:00-2:30 p.m. Library 475**

 **I. Welcome and Introductions**The following voting members were present: Rachel Kirk, Justin Gardner, Sandra Poirier, Will Carter, Doug Timmons, Dennis Powell, Dwight Brooks, Donald Kendrick, and Julie Myatt Barger. Ex-officio members in attendance were Sheila Otto and Fay Parham. Guests were Michelle Boyer-Pennington and Joey Gray.

**II. Approval of Minutes: Meeting on September 30, 2011**

There were no additions or revisions to the minutes. There was no quorum, so the minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

**III. Request for change in prerequisites: PSY 1410, General Psychology**

The Psychology Department requested a change in prerequisites for PSY 1410. Michelle Boyer-Pennington represented the Psychology Department and provided information about this request.

Proposed Change: Students with the following prescribed course (READ 1000) must pass this course before enrolling in PSY 1410.

•Rationale: Students taking PSY I410 must be able to read and comprehend the textbook and journal articles in psychology in order to be successful in this course. Students taking READ 1000 concurrently with PSY l410 often struggle with this material.

•How many students would this affect? If this change had been in effect in Fall 2011, approximately 40 students who took PSY I410 would not have been able to enroll (1753 total students were enrolled in this course); however, because PSY I410 is offered every semester, impacted students would be able to enroll the next semester.

Several members of the committee noted there is a precedent for requiring the completion of the READ 1000 course before enrolling in reading intensive General Education courses.

The nine members present voted to approve the request. Absent Committee members were given the opportunity to vote by e-mail. Three additional members voted to approve. The request was approved: 12 votes in favor, 0 votes against.

**IV. Assessment Subcommittee Report: General Education Program Review Process**

Will Carter outlined the course review process that was developed by the Assessment Subcommittee. Five courses are scheduled to pilot test the process this semester: ENGL 1020, COMM 2200, MATH 1710, PSY 1410, and PSCI 1030. The reports are due March 23, and the Assessment Subcommittee will review the reports late in the semester. Five courses are already scheduled to submit reports next year: MUS 1030, SOC 1010, SOC 2010, and two MATH courses.

**V. Policies and Procedures Subcommittee Report: General Education Teaching Award**

Justin Gardner discussed the criteria and process that were developed for an Award for Outstanding Teaching in General Education. This annual award of $3000 would be awarded at the Annual Fall Faculty Meeting. The Committee has requested funding from the MTSU Foundation, and we are waiting to hear if the award will be funded.

**VI. New Course Proposal and Approval Process**

Sheila Otto discussed the proposal process for new General Education courses and the guidelines (SACS and TBR) for evaluating and approving new courses. The new course proposal deadline is March 1. New course proposals will be sent to the Committee for review, and the full Gen Ed Committee will meet in late March or early April to discuss and vote on any new course proposals.

**VII. Other Business**

Sheila Otto announced a series of workshops that will be presented in the LT&ITC in response to the assessments of student learning in General Education. The first workshop, "Strategies for Developing and Responding to Writing Assignments," will be held Thursday, March 1, 1:15-2:30 p.m. The second workshop, "Designing and Assessing Oral Presentations," will be held Wednesday, March 21, 2:30-3:30 p.m. The third workshop, “Beyond the Research Paper: Developing Alternative Assignments to Teach Library Research,” will be held Thursday, April 12, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Justin Gardner reported that he had visited MTSU’s new Shelbyville campus and mentioned that there are opportunities for MTSU to offer courses at the site, including General Education courses. More information can be obtained from University College Dean Mike Boyle.

**VIII. Adjournment**