

**General Education Curriculum Committee 2005-06  
Meeting of October 7, 2005 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Voting Members Attending:** Ann Allen, Julie Berman, Karen Black, Lynn Boyd, Sherri Brown, Susan Crim, Karen Gray, Carol Holloman, Anna Marie Johnson, Babu Nahata, Alicia Paez, David Schultz, David Swanson, Larry Tyler, Bronwyn Williams (Chair)

**Others:** Dale Billingsley (non-voting), Kathy Carden (staff), Julia Dietrich (non-voting), Michelle Bachelor (non-voting)

1. **Minutes:** The minutes of September 16, 2005 were approved.
2. **Rubrics:** The rubrics for Critical Thinking Assessment will be refined as follows:
  - **Humanities:** remove the bullets and incorporate them into the criteria for scoring (approved with this revision)
  - **Math:** approval tabled; reword outcome 4 to replace “understands” with a more measurable verb such as “provides” (pending approval following review against Georgia Tech’s outcomes and input from Wiley Williams)
  - **Natural Sciences:** rewrite the questions into statement form using demonstrative action verbs; remove the bullets and use for the criteria *Schultz noted that the rubric was written for lab sections. Berman questioned the expectations of SACS to assess the lectures; she wondered if they would accept scantron tests from large lecture classes.*
  - **Social Sciences:** outcomes 1, 2 and 3 were approved with rewording to replace “understands” and “shows” with “demonstrates”; delete outcome 4, which does not apply to history. *Allen made a case on how the criteria and learning goals for History differs from other social sciences. To avoid the use of separate rubrics for assessing multiple departments and to simplify training for the readers, a decision was made to devise a criteria table for History as an addendum to the more global social sciences rubric.*
  - **Written Communication:** outcome #1 was revised (tabled until next meeting)
3. **Rubric Criteria:** Criteria for rubric scoring needs to be finalized before January. The chair provided a one-page quick reference as a sample guide.
4. **Portfolio Assessment – Readers//Training:** B. Williams reported that a call for portfolio-assessment readers went forth to the appropriate Deans, who will make four

recommendations. Following committee discussion, a decision was made to compensate readers a combined total of \$500: \$150 for the half-day training and \$350 for the reading. Also, departments will be reimbursed for related photo copies. Billingsley reported that letters to the instructors, with updated rosters, will be sent following the drop deadline. Also, links to reference documents and frequently asked questions will be provided.

**5. Course Proposal Reviewers:** Volunteers for the Course Proposal Subcommittee include: Anna Marie Johnson, Babu Nahata, Ben Moore (student representative), Lynn Boyd and possibly Julie Berman. Kathy Carden will convene the subcommittee.

**6. Course Equivalency Liaisons/Guidelines:** The intent of Tim Kracker's proposal was further discussed due to some confusion among liaisons.

\*ACTION: B. Williams will contact Kracker regarding the level of specificity for Social Sciences given the various disciplines. Brown, the liaison, needs to collaborate to complete the challenging task of writing equivalency guidelines for the social sciences. History equivalency guidelines have been completed by Dr. Beattie; others are pending.

**7. E-portfolios/Blackboard:** Berman reported that Dennis Robinson has requested faculty volunteers to assist with the tailoring of evaluative software to apply the rubrics. A conference call is proposed for completing this task. B. Williams is skeptical if it's a software approach that attempts to assess or measure. Billingsley's understanding is that project CALIPER is a supplementary software program that allows for comments, scoring and registering and that it does not tamper with the paper. Limitations include the inability of the system to aggregate data. Brown praised the capabilities of LIVE TEXT; however, the cost of \$80 per student is prohibitive for general education assessment.

Kathy Carden, recorder  
(corrected minutes 11-4-05)