

## Standing Committee Annual Report

**Name of Committee or Council:**

General Education Committee

**Chair:**

Dixie Dennis

**Meeting Dates in Current Year:**

9-10/24-07; 10-22-07; 1-25-08; 2-8-08; 5-14-08

### Major Actions or Accomplishments:

Unlike the original expectation of Dr. Sherry Hoppe that this new standing committee should be focused on recommendations of the 2006-2007 APSU Critical Competencies Task Force, the committee, eventually, was required to delimit its focus to the new TBR mandate to "develop and implement a system-wide assessment of general education." This new focus involved three critical competencies (critical thinking, written communication, oral communication) as the original Task Force plan; nevertheless, assessing students' competencies in math was added as per TBR direction. The new focus was smaller in scale (only core courses ENGL 1020; COMM 1010; and two Math courses, which could be chosen [MATH 1010 and 1530] than the original intent to assess all university core courses. With this change, new committee members were added by Dr. Bruce Speck to, for example, include COMM and MATH faculty. Changes, therefore, are needed in the charge of the General Education committee as well as composition of the committee. Dr. David Denton indicated that an additional duty of the committee may include reviewing new university core course submissions before forwarding to the Academic Council. I have sent suggestions to Dr. Denton regarding the new charge and committee composition.

In addition to meeting 6 times during the 2007-2008 academic year, the committee engaged in correspondences via e-mail to refine the proposal that was sent to TBR March 15, 2008. A revised proposal will be submitted to TBR in June, 2008. Several committee members (Dixie Dennis and David Major, from the original committee, and Nell Rayburn, who joined the committee to help with the TBR math mandate) attended a TBR training session regarding mandate specifics. The TBR mandated work extends through, at least, 2011, with a pilot program indicated for spring 2009.