# General Education Committee Minutes, 4/4/18

## Call to Order / Roll Call

Members present: L. Ametsbichler, S. Bradford, B. Clough, B. Durnell, D. Parson, P. Muench, G. Peters, J. Randall, A. Sala, T. Wheeler

Members Absent/Excused: N. Lindsay, T. Gregory, J. Wilkinson  
Ex-Officio present: B. French M. Opitz  
Guest: D. Coffin

The minutes from the 3/14/18 meeting were approved.

## Communication

* Doug Coffin, ASCRC Chair joined the Committee to discuss an idea for restructuring general education for innovation and enrichment. A PowerPoint slide was shared that listed five areas for innovation: Creativity, Research, Skills, Analytics, and Communication. The slide also identified five competencies: Math, Writing, Applied Science, Anthropology, and Applied Computing/ Technology. The innovation areas would allow students to create their own pathway through general education by bundling classes to complete a project in an innovation area. This could be more attractive to students and better prepare them for graduate school at the job market. The idea grew out of discussions with a member of the Writing Committee and is tailored after Complete College America goals. We need to think seriously how to generate student interest and reach out to high schools. He also worked on a proposal to do a better job of coordinating advanced options. He will send this to Chair Randall for dissemination to the Committee. The faculty need to work together to reinvent the university. Professor Coffin asked that members send comments. ASCRC is meeting with President Bodnar on May 1st  
    
  Some of the recommendations in the proposals are beyond the scope of Faculty Senate Committees. We need to be cautious about collaboration and faculty buy-in. There may be other groups working on the same issues. The restructure of Enrollment Services will bring together individuals to discuss innovation in recruitment and retention. There are very disparate student groups in terms of academic preparedness and needs such as those that are home schooled according to Admissions Evaluator Mary Opitz.

The General Education Committee is not ready to discuss details of restructuring given the uncertainty of the future discontinuance of programs. Faculty will be concerned about the increase to their teaching load and how the extra mentoring time would be counted. The idea is similar in structure to the suggestions in the accreditation report that includes integrated clusters of team taught courses. The Committee will be sent the link to the model at Missouri State at Kansas City. The agenda included links to the general education programs at the three Provost candidate’s institutions as well. At some point a pilot may be explored in conjunction with the Honors College and Global Leadership Programs.

* Chair Randall attended the Identity and Mission Subgroup of the University Planning Committee on Friday by invitation of Nadia White, a former Chair of the General Education Committee. The subgroup is discussing better and more meaningful ways of packaging and marketing our General Education program. A possibility would be the ways of knowing theme used in the Honors College. Chair Randall shared the concerns of the General Education Committee and was assured it would be involved with any changes. This included the difficulties with restructure given the current budget model. The Committee may need to consider how the current categories fit into the 5 communities identified by the UPC. A possible model could include elements required for general education not individual courses. Thus the letter the Committee discussed will not need to be sent.
* Professor Wheeler asked the committee whether it would be a waste of time to propose changing one of the natural science options to include computer science courses given the discussions of restructuring general education. The addition would be a good interim solution and wouldn’t be considered by the Faculty Senate until next fall. The Committee recommended that he draft the language for the criteria and rationale for the change.

## Business Items

* The following courses were approved. The instructor of ANTY 126 Anthropology and Global Health decided not to pursue the general educations status at this time, given the uncertainty of being able to offer the course.

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| Course | Title | Group |
| [SOCI 260 U](https://winapps.umt.edu/winapps/adminfin/eCurr/CourseForm/Index/1910) | Intro to Juvenile Delinquency | Social Science |
| GH 291 | Goddesses | Literary and Artistic Studies |
| HSTR 291 | *Rise and Fall of Apartheid* | Historical |

* The Data Workgroup is making progress. It hopes to have a report at the next meeting.
* Chair Randall worked with Sue Bradford on completing the FAQs. They will be sent to committee members for feedback.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23p.m.