# General Education Committee Minutes, 4/26/17

## Call to Order / Roll Call

Members present: S. Bradford, B. Clough, B. Durnell, C. Greenfield, P. Muench, J. Randall, T. Ravas, G. Peters, T. Wheeler, L. Yung

Ex-officio members present: A. Wadell

Members Absent/Excused: L. Ametsbichler, B. French K. Graham, N. Lindsay G. Weix

The minutes from 3/29/17 were approved.

## Communication

* Amanda Waddell from Admissions was welcomed to the committee and members introduced themselves.
* Members were reminded about the meeting schedule with accreditation visitors next Monday. Six members will be able to attend.
* Chair Bradford attended ASCRC to present the changes to the review and assessment proposal and the to eliminate symbolic systems. It added clarifying language regarding exempted departments and voted to approve 8 to 4.
* Camie received the inquiry below from Ruth Swaney, Program Coordination, Native American Natural Resources Program, who serves on the Diversity Advisory Council. Chair Bradford’s disseminated her thoughts on the issue (appended). The Committee may wish to invite her to a meeting next fall.

I have been interested in our syllabi (college and institutional level). Some of the things I have suggested to administration and faculty within my college include a statement regarding diversity and inclusion, as well as language regarding tribes. One of the things our college administration (dean and associate dean) has implemented is beginning public addresses with an acknowledgement of our institution existing on tribal land (this is based off a statement President Engstrom had developed for his commencement address). I would suggest our university implement a component within general education requirement courses to include some information pertaining to Montana tribes within their courses. I firmly believe it is time for college and universities in our state to work toward implementation of Indian Education for All.

* Members were encouraged to provide comments on the strategic directions document. The deadline was Monday, but the Coordinating Council will be working through Friday. The document is vague but includes significant changes to general education. How this would be operationalized is unclear. The administration would like to use the directions to guide program prioritization.
* Chair Bradford spoke to Robert Squires, Director of Instructional Design and Technical Support and he is happy to help the Committee to use Moodle for review and assessment.

## Business Items

* Course Review.   
  ANTY 326 is missing the key criteria of judgment for ethical decisions. The course is not being taught for a year, so the instructor could make changes so that it meets the criteria.

HSTR 272 does not seem to introduce students to ethical principles that can be applied to the various examples of terrorism. The instructor’s arguments behind a system of ethics are unclear. Students are not exposed to theoretical tools. The committee recognizes that this is a popular general education course.   
  
Both courses could make the case for a Y or H designation. The Committee voted with 6 in favor and 2 abstentions to deny the appeals for the ethics designation.

* Chair Bradford will be attending the General Education Council meeting this Friday in Helena. She asked members about topics she should bring to the Council. Some suggestions included Missoula College’s ability to use the MUS Core, crosslisting, and rubrics required for professions. and The agenda is appended below.
* Chair Bradford will work on the annual report and distribute it to members for review. It will go to the Faculty Senate as information next week.

## Good and Welfare

* Missoula College is discussing major cuts to courses that are now available for registering students.
* Members were thanked for their Service.
* Student member Greenfield’s application for Student Regent is currently under review. He hopes to continue to serve of the General Education Committee next year.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

American Indian Education for All follow-up  
  
In view of our committee turnover, I wanted to share a few thoughts on Ruth Swaney’s note concerning Indian Education for All (IEA):

1. Maybe this merits an amendment to the GE Preamble?
2. I don't see the logic of including a statement on every syllabus, unless the course and subject matter address this.  The exception might be a blurb similar to the DSS blurbs we currently include on syllabi to clarify non-discrimination policies and direct students to resources -- but this is not tied to GE content or limited to GE courses, so I’m not sure GEC is the right vehicle for this.
3. We could explore the idea of maintaining a list to highlight our “institutional portfolio” of such courses to encourage students to take these -- particularly since we already have a check box on all GE forms to accommodate the list at MUS.  Perhaps the Diversity Advisory Council would be interested in reviewing/maintaining such a list?
4. As far as making more substantive changes to the GE Framework, I would note that we consulted with the Diversity Council last year when we were drafting new Group X and Y  language.  One of the key issues we bumped into was insufficient staffing/courses to make “Indian Education for All” a GE requirement.  Instead we moved to re-articulate X and Y as a twofold diversity requirement -- with X as "Cultural and International Diversity" for cultural studies (including native cultures and tribal nations) and Y as "Democracy and Citizenship" to address political challenges of a diverse society (including courses that explore foundations of contemporary issues, such as Native American struggles for sovereignty, etc.).  This is not ideal from an IEA standpoint, but did respond to the Council’s larger request to make “diversity” more prominent in the GE Framework.

Food for thought.

Sue

## General Education Council Agenda

Our agenda will focus on three primary areas, BOR Policy 301.10, the MUS Core, and the Interstate Passport as well as include campus updates regarding general education programs on your campus.

In preparation of this agenda, I am asking that you do a handful of things prior to the meeting to ensure our time together is fruitful:

1. Come prepared to provide a short update for the group on the current state of gen ed on your campus including any current initiatives underway and how your campus vets and approves courses for your campus general education program.
2. Send me the link to your current campus gen ed program as they are linked on the MUS website (<http://mus.edu/Transfer/GenEdByCampus.asp>).
3. Thoroughly review BOR Policy 301.10 General Education Transfer Policy (<http://mus.edu/borpol/bor300/301-10.pdf>) noting any issues that exist or changes that should be made.
4. Thoroughly review the MUS Core (<http://mus.edu/Transfer/MUScore.asp0> and its components including the Operational Guidelines (<http://mus.edu/Transfer/MUScoreoperatingrules.pdf>) and note current issues/challenges with this model.
5. Educate yourself on the Interstate Passport (<http://www.wiche.edu/passport/home>) and contemplate how this could work within the MUS. A few important Passport links:
   * Overview - <http://www.wiche.edu/files/info/Passport%20Overview%2010-21-2016.pdf>
   * Guiding Principles - <http://www.wiche.edu/files/info/Passport%20Guiding%20Principles.pdf>
   * Learning Outcomes - <http://www.wiche.edu/files/info/The%20Passport%20Learning%20Outcomes%20June%202016.pdf>
   * FAQ - <http://www.wiche.edu/passport/faq-home>