# General Education Committee Minutes, 4/18/18

## Call to Order / Roll Call

Members present: L. Ametsbichler, D. Parson, P. Muench, G. Peters, J. Randall, A. Sala, T. Wheeler

Members Absent/Excused: S. Bradford, B. Clough, B. Durnell, B. French N. Lindsay, T. Gregory, J. Wilkinson  
Ex-Officio present: M. Opitz

The minutes from the 4/4/18 meeting were approved. Professor Wilkinson asked questions regarding the presentation since she missed the meeting.

## Communication

* Chair Randall was asked by the Dance program whether the Committee would consider a late form to exempt the program from the language requirement. The program was not aware that it qualified as an extended major (48 credits for the bachelor degree). Unfortunately it is too late at this point in the semester to review the item and get it on the Faculty Senate agenda for the May meeting.
* The Committee was sent the response from ECOS regarding the appeal policy and had no other issues.

Deference here means that the committee must give due weight to the work of the subcommittee and shouldn’t overturn the subcommittee’s recommendation without a good reason for doing so. I put it in there to avoid the complaint I was hearing that the committee could just re-do the work of the subcommittee—this way the committee has ultimate responsibility but the subcommittee’s work can’t be ignored. That’s actually why I originally wanted justifications even if the recommendation was to approve the proposal—it’s hard to give deference to the subcommittee’s recommendation if you don’t know their reasoning. I get not creating more paperwork though so the assumption will have to be that if the subcommittee approved a proposal, it met all the requirements.

The term bias already includes prejudice (either for or against something) but the Committee can suggest additional language to make it clearer.

This was on the last meeting’s agenda but was not mentioned given the time devoted to the discussion with ASCRC Chair Coffin.

* Members were sent an excerpt from the last Faculty Senate meeting minutes that summarized the presentation of the UPC Mission and Identity Subgroup’s Montana Ways idea and how it may align with the UM Core. The Committee may wish to invite a member from the Subgroup to a meeting in the fall.
* The WICHE Passport Pilot Mapping Project report was sent to members. It summarized UM’s involvement in the project. Several faculty, including former General Education Committee members participated in assessing student artifacts in the four designated Passport Learning Outcomes (PLOs) (Written Communication, Critical Thinking, Quantitative Literacy and Natural Sciences. UM has not formally considered joining the WICHE Passport. However, it has been discussed by the BOR General Education Council and there seems to be some interest at the system level. Given UM’s current state of flux and financial uncertainty, this would not be a good time for consideration.

## Business Items

* Chair Randall was asked to draft a rationale for the revised General Education Subcommittee Responsibilities Procedure for presentation at the Faculty Senate meeting. The following language was approved.

The proposed revisions clarify the General Education review process, which was last revised in 2011. The revisions serve the following purposes:

1) To provide a clear guide of the review process for future members of the General Education Committee

2) In the event of an appeal of a General Education decision, these clarified procedures will allow ECOS to easily determine whether standard review procedures have been followed.

* After considerable discussion and some revision the proposed edit to the Natural Science category (appended) was approved. Professor Wheeler will edit the rationale to include clarification that this is a compromise while the university is in a state of flux and there is pressure to revise the general education program to incorporate the work of the UPC Mission and Identity Subgroup.
* Chair Randall agreed and was elected to serve as chair for one more year. Professor Muench agreed to serve for another year as well.
* Given the President’s Recommendations include a look at creating a UM core that takes into account the work of the UPC Mission and Identity subgroup, Chair Randall asked members to consider how the current general education groups map on to the Montana Ways and Communities of Excellence. Identify pros and cons of incorporating these into the general education program and send these to him on Monday if possible. ECOS is tasked with responding to the recommendations by the May 3rd Faculty Senate meeting. It is hosting listening sessions next Tuesday and Thursday at 3:00 p.m. in SS 352. It would like to include the General Education Committees thoughts on the recommendations. Chair Randall will work on a draft over the weekend.
* The draft outline of the annual report was sent to members to provide input. The Senate Bylaws require standing committees to submit a report in writing for the May meeting.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34p.m.

### Proposed Modification to Natural Science General Education Group

Group XI: Natural Science (N)

These courses demonstrate or exemplify scientific questioning and validation of findings. They present scientific conclusions about the structure and function of the natural world, demonstrate or exemplify scientific questioning and validation of findings and/or introduce computational methods that underlie modern scientific analysis.

Upon completion of a Natural Science course, a student will be able to:

1. understand the general principles associated with the discipline(s) studied;
2. understand the methodology and activities scientists use to gather, validate and interpret data related to natural processes;
3. detect patterns, draw conclusions, develop conjectures and hypotheses, and test them by appropriate means and experiments;
4. understand how scientific laws and theories are verified by quantitative measurement or computation, scientific observation, and logical/critical reasoning;
5. and understand the means by which analytic uncertainty is quantified and expressed in the natural sciences