# General Education Committee Minutes, 9/6/17

## Call to Order / Roll Call

Members present: L. Ametsbichler, B. Bach, B. Clough, P. Muench, G. Peters J. Randall, A. Sala, D. Ward, T. Wheeler

Ex-officio members present: B. French, A. Wadell

Members Absent/Excused: P. Muench, N. Lindsay

The minutes from 4/26/17 were approved.

## Communication

* Members introduced themselves and new members were welcomed
* The rolling review of general education courses is postponed due to APASP.
* The deadline for curriculum forms is September 29th (extended to October 13th).
* We have received enrollment data for the last few years. A few members were interested in helping with the analysis, but not for a few weeks.

## Business Items

* Chair Randall provided a brief overview of the WICHE Passport. It is an interstate block transfer program. Institutions must pay $75,000 to join. UM participated in the research-mapping project last year. The project was discussed at the General Education Council last spring. Last year’s Chair Sue Bradford attended the meeting. There was a lot of pushback when MUS membership was considered. It requires students to engage in a lot of pre planning and there is overlap. There will be additional discussion after the mapping project report is available.
* Chair Randall would like to prioritize getting good sample forms for each of the groups. The following members review past forms for a possible sample.

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| Liz Ametsbichler | Language  |
| Betsy Bach | Social Science  |
| Brad Clough | Cultural & International Diversity |
| Paul Muench | Ethics |
| James Randal | Expressive Arts / Literary & Artistic Studies /Democracy & Citizenship / Historical |

During the review of the new general education courses this fall, members should think about clarity of the process. A workshop is needed to help faculty complete the forms. It should also be an opportunity to connect with others teaching and assessing general education learning outcomes, similar to the Writing Assessment Workshop. The committee will think about how to structure workshops the second half of the semester.

The preamble could use some revision. It gets in the way of review and assessment because it is so broad. Although one of the strategic visions is to reinvent the heart of the curriculum, the Committee will likely not engage in revisions this year due to APASP. The APASP reports have a section that requires programs to respond to the strategic vision areas. The ideas in the reports could help formulate possibilities for revamping general education. Chair Randall wants the committee to take a “do no harm” approach this year, given the changes that are coming.

Professor Wheeler inquired whether the committee might consider the notion of expanding the current math requirement to quantitative reasoning. Any proposal should provide a rational for how it might benefit students. There is a national trend toward streamlined skill based general education programs.

* The catalog language is misleading with respect to the revised X and Y categories. Although the learning outcomes have changed, the courses have not been reviewed. The courses listed under the new categories meet the old learning outcomes. Students graduating under old catalogs may try to find courses under the old categories. Language is needed to clarify that the courses under the revised headings will count. Professor Ametsbichler and Clough will draft language for the committee to consider at the next meeting.

## Good and Welfare

* The College of Humanities and Sciences is piloting late start / short classes this semester. These are 3, 6, and 9 week classes that start latter in the semester. This allows students that drop courses to pick up others and retain financial aid eligibility. The School of Business has had success with this model. The challenge right now is how to promote the courses so students are aware of the option.

## Adjournment

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