

# General Education Committee Meeting Minutes, 10/17/18

## 4:00PM, GBB 202

### Call to Order

*Members present:* L. Ametsbichler, R. Fanning, K. Graham, L. Metcalf, C. Milton, P. Muench, G. Peters, J. Randall, A. Sala, J. Wilkinson

*Members Absent/Excused:* D. Parson, M. Opitz, S. Schwarze

*Ex-officio members present:* B. French, N. Lindsay

*Guest:* Andrea Johnson (Doctoral Student in Educational Leadership- shadowing Executive Director Brian French)

The minutes from 10/3/18 were approved.

### Communication

- The proposal to revise Natural Science General Education group was not approved by the Faculty Senate. There was some interest to include computer science courses in general education, but not as a Natural Science.
- Chair Randall has been talking with Elli Brown, the student who is chairing ASUM's UM Core Pilot Communication Committee. The Committee is conducting a survey to get data regarding impressions of the general education program from current students and alumni. The data will be passed along at some point.

### Business Items

- The following general education courses were approved. The Green Group has some follow-up questions regarding three courses.

Blue Group, Chaired by Professor Graham

Art	ARTH 150	Introduction to Art History	Cultural & International
MC-AAS	HSTA 150	Veteran's Experience	Democracy & Citizenship
Sociology	SOCI220	Race, Gender, and Class	Democracy & Citizenship
EVST	ENST 225	Sustainable Communities	Democracy & Citizenship

Purple Group, Chaired by Professor Muench

MC- Business	LEG 184	Legal Ethics	Ethics and Human
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Technology			Values
Art	GDSN 149	Digital Imaging I	Expressive Arts
Missoula College AAS	BIOB 210	Communication of Biology	Natural Science
EVST	ENST 225	Sustainable Communities	Social Science

Green Group, Chaired by Professor Fanning

MC-AAS	HSTA 150	Veteran's Experience	Historical Studies
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- Several issues were discussed related to the review. It may be helpful to have a question on the form that identifies whether the course is being proposed for more than one group. The MUS Core only allows courses to count toward one general education category although they may be listed under more than one. The number of general education courses will likely be reduced as units are working through their staffing plans. The Provost has been saying that there are too many general education courses. The data showed 52% of general education courses with less than 26 students enrolled. Units will have to manage these courses with fewer faculty, so presumably only the more popular (higher enrolled courses) will be retained. It is the administrations job to decide which courses are offered and who teaches them. The rolling review of courses and the dormant course report should help to track the courses that are no longer offered.

DegreeWorks will show which general education requires a student has satisfied only after the student has registered. Programs are working to outline four year study plans. The administration is considering investing in catalog management software that will make the curriculum review process much more efficient.

Some members don't think students should take general education courses in their major. Perhaps students could be exempt from the general education group that fits with their major. Professor Ratto-Parks has a draft proposal that she has circulated for feedback. The intermediate writing course should be taken across the discipline and should easily fit within one of the other general education groups. Writing across the discipline is consistent with national conversations about pedagogy.

The Freshman Seminar could include a mandatory project requiring students to set up a path through general education. The freshmen core should not add additional credits, but rather be integrated and meet general education requirements.

There is concern about the administrations narrative about general education. There is a misunderstanding of the Committees charge. The Provost rhetoric indicates he is not familiar with the system. Reducing the number of courses is one of the ways the university can save money over time. The problem is communication and advising. A solid general education core is something that can be branded to perspective employers. Advising pathways can help to engage

student with the requirements. Perhaps one of the science courses could be a general Science and Society course for non-science majors.

- The Committee agreed to meet next week and was given the task to refine the UM Core Pilot 1) distribution of our current System (or another system) into the UM Ways, and 2) The Freshman Core.

Box link:

<https://umt.box.com/s/q2y4twhoiewk3ffubnhixmtprztnezy!>

## ***Adjournment***

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.