# General Education Committee Minutes, 3/8/17

## Call to Order / Roll Call

Members present: L. Ametsbichler, S. Bradford, B. Clough, B. Durnell, K. Graham, P. Muench, J. Randall, G. Peters, T. Wheeler, L. Yung

Ex-officio members present: B. French

Members Absent/Excused: C. Greenfield, N. Lindsay, T. Ravas

Guests: D. Beal, G. Weix

The minutes from 2/22/17 were approved.

## Communication

* Several members are attending the Board of Regents meeting this week.
* Associate Provost Lindsay needs comments for the accreditation document by this Friday.

## Business Items

* Course Review. The Ethics Subcommittee reviewed the additional materials submitted for PHAR 514 and agrees that the ethic content is satisfactory. More clarity is still needed with connecting the assessment information to the learning outcomes. Professor Donna Beal was invited to the meeting to provide some background information on the Pharm D degree. It is a professional degree. Students do not earn a bachelor’s degree. This is the national standard. Students are required to take 2 years of prerequisites and then 4 years to earn the degree. Students enter the program with various skills. Some have already earned a bachelor’s degree. The Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Education (ACPE) prescribes requirements. The first year and a half students the curriculum is focused on science and are at the 300-level. The second year courses are in Pharmacy Practice. The last year students have rotations.

The issue of a general education course at the 500-level that is only open to students in the major has continued to be a concern of ASCRC. However, since the PharmD is a professional degree, general education requirements should not apply. It is a unique degree. [A follow-up search of the catalog did not find language that would require a professional degree program to fulfill UM’s general education requirements.] The course was approved pending fine tuning of the assessment information in any case.

Professors Bradford and Weix met separately with the professors appealing the Committees decision on ANTY 326 *Indigenous People Ethics and Development* and HSTR 272 *Terrorism: Violence in the Modern World*. From these meetings it became clear that what is missing from assessment is the conversation with faculty. The bureaucratic forms and peer review can be perceived as un-collegial. Meetings with faculty increases the understanding of what is required and how the process can add value. Professor Drake will draft some language explaining how his lectures and texts relate to the learning outcomes. Professor Greymorning will work to revise his submission. He is very passionate about indigenous ethics. It was suggested that a two hour workshop be offered every year to help faculty with documenting and understanding assessment for general education courses.

The Science subcommittee has received follow-up for PHSX 102 *Physics in Movies* and is in the process of reviewing. Missoula College is working on revisions to BIOH 108 *Basic Anatomy*.

Professor Weix is working on materials for ANTY 220. She was going to let the designation sunset but there is a new faculty member that would like to continue teaching the course with the general education designation, so she is helping them to complete the form.

* Language requirement clarification. Professor Ametsbichler has been in contact with Irish Studies Director O’Riordain. He is open to changing the Irish language courses to 4 credits. She will be meeting with him after spring break. She will also reach out to the instructor of Blackfeet. The hope is to have a standard first-year competency requirement.
* Proposal to eliminate Symbolic Systems. Chair Bradford drafted a proposal to eliminate the symbolic systems language from the catalog. It provides background and explains the reason for the proposal is to eliminate unnecessary confusion from the general education program. She will send the document to members to consider.

A related issue may be that the Associate of Arts degree from Missoula College currently uses symbolic systems rather than language to fulfill UM’s general education program. However, the program is not considered an extended major, so would not qualify for the exemption to the UM’s language requirement. This could possibly be resolved with the use of the MUS core / General Studies Certificate. Unfortunately, a faculty member has not offered to take the lead on developing the proposal. This is an equity issue within the system. Missoula College is being held to a higher standard than other two-year colleges in the system. Chair Bradford will inform Missoula College of the potential impact to the AA program.

* Meeting Schedule. There are three meetings (3/29, 4/12, and 4/26) remaining in the semester after spring break. ASCRC seems to be meeting every other week, so will need to take this into consideration to get things approved and to the Faculty Senate. The April Faculty Senate meeting has been moved to April 20th due to a conflict with the Employee Recognition Day event. Chair Bradford was thinking of a possible listening session event at the Honors College on April 7th. This would provide the opportunity for faculty to offer feedback regarding the assessment proposal.
* Assessment Proposal. ECOS provided some feedback regarding the proposal. It suggested that the assessment be less grandiose given the current climate of budget cuts and low morale. The draft will be edited for presentation to the Faculty Senate in April and a vote in May. ASCRC is expected to discuss the initial proposal and offer feedback next week (3/14).
* Members were asked to think about serving as chair-elect.

## Adjournment

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