# General Education Committee Minutes, 11/2/16

## Call to Order / Roll Call

Members present: L. Ametsbichler, S. Bradford, B. Clough, R. Fanning, C. Greenfield, P. Muench, J. Randal, G. Weix, T. Wheeler, L. Yung  
Ex-officio members present: B. French

Members Absent/ Excused: T. Ravas, B. Durnell, B. Holzworth, N. Lindsay

The minutes from 10/19/16 were approved.

## Communication

* Several departments, including Missoula College did not respond to the request to review the MUS Core offerings. A follow-up message was sent. Camie compared UM’s offerings to the MUS Core and will send the revised spreadsheet with changes color coded to committee members.
* The Group H Workgroup is meeting again on Friday at 4:00 p.m.
* The General Education Assessment Workgroup met with Associate Provost Lindsay. They discussed bringing together stakeholders and inviting input from faculty who participated in the pilots. Additional sample forms are needed to address a broader range of disciplines and reasonable responses; there have been some complaints about the current sample forms. Guidance is also needed for the reviewers.
* The list of language courses in the General Education section of the catalog is confusing. The Registrar’s Office in the process of transitioning to CourseLeaf, so the appearance of the catalog will change once this is completed. The Committee will revisit this issue once the new software / catalog is available.
* ASCRC approved the following AA/AS policy language.  
    
  UM accepts Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) Degrees from US colleges and universities accredited by regional and national accrediting agencies recognized by the US Department of Education. AA and AS Degrees from other institutions will be reviewed on an individual basis. A completed AA or AS degree satisfies UM’s lower-division General Education requirements; students must still complete the advanced writing course and are encouraged to explore lower-division language courses to enhance their major. *Since Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degrees focus on technical skills, the degree does not necessarily satisfy all lower-division General Education requirements at UM.*

## Business Items

* The following items from Group 1 were approved.

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| Course | Title | Group |
| SSEA 202 | Introduction to India | Historical |
| COMX 115 | Interpersonal Communication | Social Science |
| ECNS 202 | Principles of Macroeconomics | Social Science |

* Two courses were withdrawn from Group 2 review: LIT 201 and MART
* Items need to be presented to the November 22nd ASCRC meeting in order to make the December Faculty Senate agenda. Items can go in February if need be, but it is preferred to complete the review fall semester.
* The Committee discussed the proposal from the Upper-division Workgroup appended below. The Workgroup reviewed most of the justifications on forms submitted for upper-division courses over the past several years. Many of them included practical reasons such as limited resources, the sequence of courses, and the need for more upper-division credit offerings for a specific student population. The introductory and foundational language is in the General Education Framework not the Preamble. The distinction between *introductory* and *foundational* is nebulous. The workgroup proposed to eliminate introductory but keep foundational so that general education courses maintain the breadth and are not too specialized. Requiring that the course be open to students outside the major will impact several departments with extended majors; specifically as related to the Ethics and Human Values courses. It would be helpful to have examples of courses with valid justifications for exceptions. Members were encouraged to talk with their colleagues about the issue.
* Chair Bradford reminded members of the remaining items on the agenda that have carried over for several weeks.
  + Proposal to eliminate symbolic systems language
    - MC’s ability to use the MUS Core to fulfill general education
  + Consistent policy for experimental and one-time-only courses
  + Committee Chair nominations

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

**Subcommittee Proposal to Clarify Upper-Division General Education Rationale**

*Preamble:*

Our goal is to create transparency, clear guidelines for the committee, and consistency across years.

*Reasons to retain general education designation for some upper division courses:*

* To enable students to engage with general education themes throughout their time at UM
* To recognize the relevance of general education to students at all levels
* To enable students to engage with general education material in more depth and at a higher level of sophistication
* To enable students to engage with faculty who are connecting general education principles to their specific areas of expertise/passion
* To enable schools and program to meet accreditation requirements or other external requirements

*Proposals:*

I. Eliminate the term “introductory” from all general education language.

II. Add the following criteria for general education designation for upper division courses (in addition to criteria for that specific general education perspective):

Course needs to serve and/or accommodate students outside the major (we want to discourage courses that only serve a narrow segment of the student population)

III. Require that all upper division general education courses include this statement in the course description and the syllabus:

This course fulfills a general education requirement, but please be aware that it is an upper division course and will be more difficult in scope and depth than a lower division course that fulfills the same general education requirement.

IV: Add language about II and III to the course forms and require that all upper division course proposals and renewals answer the following question:

How does this course serve and/or accommodate students outside the major?