

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

April 24, 2018

Present: Bernie Quetchenbach
Jim Barron
Emily Arendt
Megan Thomas
Melinda Tilton
Matthew Queen
Rebecca Muller

Absent: Tien Chih
John Roberts*
Cori Day*
Lance Mouser
Tom Regele*
Leanne Gilbertson*
Scott Harris*
Tara Haupt (ex-officio)

*excused

Guest: Suzette Nynas

Jim Barron called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. in the SUB Missouri room.

The minutes of March 13 & March 28 were accepted as presented.

I. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Adding more Health & Wellness to Gen Ed

Guest: Suzette Nynas, Chair, Health & Human Performance

Dr. Nynas stated that the only course her department has in Gen Ed is HTH 110 Personal Health and Wellness in the Social Sciences category. It is poorly enrolled, but the department would like to change that. Montana has a very high rate of suicide as well as obesity, which is a public health issue. What can they do to get more students taking this or another health and wellness course?

It was noted that HTH 110 is a great idea, but even Health & Human Performance majors don't take it because they need PSYX 100 or SOCI 101 as prerequisites for their programs. The GEC could create another category of courses that all students should take. The proposed BMIS 150 we discussed at the last meeting would also fit here. The issue is credits. Adding credits to Gen Ed may be difficult, since many programs have already made use of the 6 credits we gave up from Gen Ed a few years ago. Also, students always have the option to take the MUS core, which is 30 credits, as opposed to our current 31 credits. Anything beyond the 30 credits can be circumvented by students.

It was noted that since there is not much interest in HTH 110, maybe promotion is the best bet. The course could be advertised in the A&SC 111 course incoming freshmen take. It was suggested that in the future, A&SC 111 may become part of Gen Ed anyway, and therefore required of all students. We could add a second semester to that requirement, where students take HTH 110 or BMIS 150. Create a Global Life Skills category! But, again, adding A&SC 111 and either HTH 110 or BMIS 150 will, in this case, increase the Gen Ed program by 5 credits.

It was cited that if the GEC is going to revise the Gen Ed outcomes, no new courses or categories should be added at this time.

The Committee thanked Dr. Nynas for the discussion.

II. ITEM – FIRST READING

Item 53 BIOB 160 Principles of Living Systems. Add corequisites.

- Motion by Matt Queen, seconded by Bernie Quetchenbach to **approve Item 53 on first reading.**

Adding these corequisite courses will, in effect, create cohorts for biology majors.

- Motion carried.

- Motion by Matt Queen, seconded by Melinda Tilton to **waive second reading of Item 53.**

- Motion carried.

III. ASSESSMENT UPDATE/VICE PROVOST REPORT

Vice Provost Redinger was not able to attend today's meeting, but he noted (via email) that the incentive for students to voluntarily take the Proficiency Profile test (waiving the \$50 graduation fee) will continue until the mandate gets into the catalog. Over 100 students have signed up to take the Proficiency Profile this semester, which must be completed by this Friday, April 27. So, if we even get half to do it, we will get some good data.

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS continued

B. Biennial Review of Gen Ed Courses – Reports Completed

Some of the reports were well thought out, and some were not. The Co-Chairs asked all the members to read the summaries. Next Fall we will need to decide what to do with the not-so-good reports.

It was noted that some, but not all of the syllabi have the Gen Ed outcomes listed. It seems unclear whether this requirement has been communicated to all departments.

The GEC needs to give the departments feedback on these reports. Perhaps we could take a good example and forward it to the ones needing work.

It was noted that the following Gen Ed courses will likely be deleted in the near future:

- PHSX 105 Fundamentals of Physical Science
- PHSX 106 Fundamentals of Physical Science Lab
- ANTY 217 Physical Anthropology and Archaeology
- ANTY 220 Culture and Society
- MART 260 Computer Presentation and Animation

C. Report from Academic Senate Meeting/Plan & Language for Catalog

The Senate has approved the mandate that all students take the Proficiency Profile test before graduating. We will need to add language to the catalog, likely at the end of the Gen Ed section. This will be effective for Fall 2019.

D. Draft Gen Ed Program Learning Outcomes

Rather than outcomes for each category, create outcomes for the whole program.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.