

**General Education Committee  
Minutes**

November 4, 2024

**Present:** Carly Waddoups  
Melinda Tilton  
Mara Pierce  
Daniel Willems  
Daniel Charlton  
Eileen Wright

Jennifer Lodine-Chaffey  
Paul Pope  
Jason Comer  
Ryan Butler  
Chairsty Stewart  
Bryan Grove (ex-officio)

**Absent:** Tom Rust\*  
\*excused

Elijah Sneigoski (student)

**Guests:** Aaron Schultz  
Kathleen Thatcher

Jacob Thacker

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. in LA 627.

I. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of October 7 were accepted as presented.

II. REPORTS

**The College Experience**

The new course is at the CLASS Curriculum Committee. The GEC will see it in December.

III. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Title	Status	Received
GEO 112: Montana Geology	Added	10/16/2024
BIOB 120: Fund of Bio Plants & People	Added	10/16/2024

Jacob Thacker, Biological & Physical Sciences, stated they have taken the bare bones of GEO 101 and related them to features available right here in Montana. GEO 112 will be a Monday/Wednesday lecture for 2 credits and students will take the lab course, GEO 102, that is already offered. GEO 101 will essentially become the “majors” course.

Jason Comer, Biological & Physical Sciences, noted they want to keep the lab experience, but without that 1 credit. BIOB 120 will also be a Monday/Wednesday lecture for 2 credits. The course will still cover the fundamentals of biology and the scientific method. This course is currently being run as a pilot and he will be able to bring student artifacts at the end of this semester.

It was noted that there is no rule in the MUS guidelines for what a lab experience is. However, we don't have to assess the lab experience of any one course. Our assessment is of the program as a whole, and if students doing hands-on learning is the best way to assess, that's what we do.

- Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Mara Pierce to **approve GEO 112 and BIOB 120 for Gen Ed.**

- Motion carried.

#### IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

##### **A. Revised Catalog Copy Draft & Name the New Category**

The Committee needs to decide what the category in which The College Experience will go. It was agreed the category will be I. D. Skills for College Success.

##### **B. Transfer Credits Statement**

It was agreed at the October meeting that students transferring in 60 credits or more being required to take the course is too high. It was noted that some Dual Enrollment students will be coming in with enough credits to be a sophomore, even a junior. However, if a student has taken that many credits already, they already have the skills they would learn in the TCE course.

It was proposed that the statement be revised to "Transfer students who transfer in 36 or more credits are not required to take this course." Before it is finalized, the Registrar will be consulted for any concerns.

##### **C. Assessment of Problem Solve: Next Steps**

###### **1. Review Results of Mapping Survey**

We did not get responses from all of the courses currently mapped to Problem Solve, but we got maybe 70% of them. It was noted that faculty do not always know what Gen Ed course they are teaching in a given year. The survey was really easy to fill out, which is important.

###### **2. Final Review of Letter to Problem Solve Participants**

The Gen Ed logo will be added. *Individual* student work need to be emphasized. We can send two emails, one now and one as a reminder as the semester ends, but they should be pretty similar. The calendar reminder can be an all day reminder rather than a specific time, so it doesn't look like a meeting. It was agreed that, with our small sample sizes, modality doesn't really matter.

The letter will be sent out Thursday, November 7.

**D. Test Run of Problem Solve Assessment Rubric and Example Student Artifacts**

The rubric for Problem Solve is very difficult to use for outcome 4. Use scientific methods to solve problems. Jason Comer worked on a revised rubric for this outcome, and he and Dan Willems will do some testing with it.

Carly Waddoups and Chairsty Stewart will also review the rubric for outcome 3. Use statistical or mathematical methods to solve problems.

Rather than emailing the rubric along with the letter going out this Thursday, we will put it in Box and give people a link if they want to read it.

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.