# General Education Committee Minutes, 12/7/16

## Call to Order / Roll Call

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

Members Absent/ Excused: B. Durnell, B. French

The minutes from 11/16/16 were approved with one abstention.

## Communication

* Chair Bradford provided a brief update on the status of the Group H revision. ASCRC asked that the draft be sent to effected departments for feedback. The communication has been sent requesting feedback prior to the start of the spring semester.
* The MUS Core Audit information has been sent to OCHE. The committee may need to weigh in on a few items.
* Chair Bradford had two meetings to collect information about assessment practices on campus. The first was with Kelly Webster and Megan Stark and the second was with Beverly Chin and Associate Provost Nathan Lindsay. Chair Bradford will try to draft something over winterbreak.
* Professor Wheeler is working on the draft motion to eliminate the symbolic systems designation from the general education program.

## Business Items

**Course Review:**

* Group 3 (Natural Science and Symbolic Systems) did not have any additional approvals to report. Two courses are awaiting supplemental information. The instructor of the Physics course had intended the proposed course to be taught this spring, but did not submit a request or justification for the early implementation. The committee was informed of the language added to Policy 201.6, *Effective Date of Approved Curriculum Form*s intended to clarify the necessity of the current time line for curriculum review.

Spring implementation of curriculum items approved in the fall is normally not allowed because:

* The Registrar’s Office is processing registration for spring during the fall review. If changes are made in January then the students registering in the fall could be at a disadvantage because the change will happen after their advising appointments and registration.
* The change won’t be in the catalog until the next year as the current catalog is closed for editing. This would create a discrepancy between the student’s transcript and the catalog.
* The current catalog cycle and approvals are completed in Banner, Cascade, 25-Live, etc. for the year. The Registrar’s Office works on changes and schedules for the next year during the fall and it is difficult and time consuming to make changes to the current year retroactive.

Any request for spring implementation of a curriculum item must explain how non- implementation of the request will harm students.

Unfortunately we are behind other universities with respect to a dynamic catalog. The Registrar’s Office is working to implement CourseLeaf which will be an improvement, but there was no funding to purchase the curriculum review component.

* Group 2 (Ethics and Democracy & Citizenship) approved the following courses. Several courses are still pending, including two (NRSM 449E and 489E) from last spring that were missing from the list. Follow-up responses were received in September. Professor Meunch will work on follow-up communication to the courses that were not initially approved.

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| Course | Title |
| AHMS 270E | Medical Ethics |
| CSCI 315E | Computers, Ethics, and Society |
| ENST 320E | Earth Ethics: Moral Dimensions of Environmental Issues |
| GEO 304E | Science and Society |
| RLST 281E | Comparative Ethics |

* Group 4 (Literary and Expressive Arts) approved the following courses. The two forms received late from Literature are still pending.

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| Course | Title | Group | Action |
| CRWR 326 | Introduction NonFiction Workshop | Expressive Arts | Renew |
| CRWR 328 | Intermediate NonFiction Workshop | Expressive Arts | Remove |

* Group 1 (Social Science, Historical & Cultural Studies) approved the following courses. The instructor of ANTY 150, Archaeology of Yellowstone is arguing that the criteria are too restrictive. At this point the subcommittee would like input from others. Professor Weix and Bradford agreed to help.

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| Course | Title | Group |
| NRSM 370 | Wildland Conservation Policy & Governance | Social Science |

**Upper Division Course Policy**

The committee discussed the upper-division issue. Some argued that courses are no longer general if they are offered at the 300 and 400 level. General education courses should cover a breadth of knowledge to expose students to diverse ways of knowing. Others maintained that higher level courses offer greater depth of knowledge and are just as beneficial for students. These higher level courses benefit students in applying for scholarships. Often the distinction between course levels is arbitrary and students have a wide range of abilities. Ultimately the student decides which courses to take.   
  
The Committee voted 7 in favor and 2 opposed to allow 300-level courses, but require a rational for 400 level general education courses. Further discussion will be needed to agree on criteria for exceptions.

## Good and Welfare

* The first meeting of the spring semester will be January 25th to allow pending items to make the February Faculty Senate meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.