# General Education Committee Minutes, 2/14/18

## Call to Order / Roll Call

Members present: B. Durnell, D. Parson, G. Peters, J. Randall, T. Wheeler, J. Wilkinson

Members Absent/Excused: L. Ametsbichler, S. Bradford, B. Clough, B. French, P. Muench, A. Sala, M. Opitz
Ex-Officio present: N. Lindsay

Guest: Colin Neilson

The minutes from the 1/31/18 meeting were.

## Communication

* Follow-up communication has been sent to the instructor of ANTY 126 *Anthropology and Global Health* and HST 291 *The Rise and Fall of Apartheid*. [It was discovered that the general education form for Historical Studies had an error- the assessment section had the old learning outcomes. The reviewers should take this into consideration.]
* Professor Wheeler is interested in adding a computing requirement to the general education program given the increasing role of data analysis in society. Student Colin Neilson believes programming and data analytics will better prepare students for the future job market. Other universities have included the requirement in a variety of ways. It is commonly mixed in with math or analytical reasoning, as an alternative to language or a separate requirement. A possibility could be to remove one of the other designations or only require 3 credits of natural science with a lab.

Any changes to the existing requirements will be difficult given the current accounting of credit hours and budget model. Units will fight to keep their share of general education because it increases course enrollment. According to Associate Provost Lindsay many universities are transitioning to fewer requirements and interdisciplinary/ team taught courses. In order for UM to do this a different way of funding general education is needed. Chair Randall will draft a letter to the University Planning Committee (UPC) outlining the difficulties and current issues with the General Education Program. Professor Wheeler will summarize his research of how other universities programming/ data analytics requirement. Associate Provost Lindsay will provide some resources of best practice trends in general education.

## Business Items

* The revised Subcommittee policy was briefly reviewed. It hadn’t been revised in a while, so the changes to group X, Y, and H needed to be updated. It now includes clear guidelines for communication. Typically 10 working days should be provided for instructor / subcommittee response. Communication templates should also be drafted. Chair Randall will send the draft to ASCRC to consider.
* It would be helpful for the Committee to develop a guide for faculty filling out forms as well as top reasons courses are rejected. There is concern that workshops will not be well attended. Video tutorials may be another option, but this could be difficult to manage depending on
how frequently updates would be needed.
* [A workgroup is needed to consider the best way to manage the assessment requirement. Whether Moodle or Box should be used to store the information, and what data Associate Provost Lindsay will need to extract for the accreditation report.]
* More sample forms are needed. MLIB, *Research Skills for an informed Citizenry* was identified as a good example for Group Y. However, it will no longer be offered.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00p.m.