

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

November 15, 2011

Present:	Mike Havens Patricia Nichols TyRee Jenks	Matt Redinger Elizabeth Fullon
Absent:	Bernie Quetchenbach Melinda Tilton – <i>excused</i> Neil Suits – <i>excused</i> Mark Fenderson – <i>excused</i>	Michael Scarlett Kurt Toenjes – <i>excused</i> Tom Regele – <i>excused</i>
Presiding:	Matt Redinger, Chairperson	

A quorum was not reached so discussion began at 4:07 p.m. in McMullen 305.

I. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. MUS General Education Council Meeting: Matt Redinger

Dr. Redinger stated that he thought the Gen Ed Council meeting would last at least two days, but really the meeting was only one afternoon. He distributed the handouts from the meeting in which the LEAP initiative was discussed. Missoula is to be the pilot/model school for the LEAP initiative, which the entire state will eventually move toward. The Global Leadership Initiative (GLI) will be the model that Missoula uses. Carol Geary Schneider of AAC&U (Association of American Colleges & Universities) made a presentation about how higher education is moving to a new definition of Gen Ed in the 21st century, instead of the “breadth and depth” of the 20th century. This new definition will de-emphasize Gen Ed and the major, and instead emphasize ELOs (essential learning outcomes) and outcomes assessment.

Dr. Redinger also noted that the MSU Great Falls COT is looking to offer a certificate in Gen Ed. The Council was mystified by this, as basically the students are completing the 30 credit MUS Core which is transferable anywhere in Montana with no certificate needed. The Great Falls folks acknowledged they wanted the certificate program to count as a separate IPEDS program.

Dr. Redinger stated that they left the meeting with many big unanswered questions. We need to get rid of the distribution model to really fit into LEAP, but there is not going to be a big infusion of funding for this project. Basically, in order to move toward LEAP, we have to fit what we already do into LEAP. Outside of perhaps adding a capstone course, MSUB is not going to throw out our Gen Ed and the MUS Core will remain as well. To adopt the LEAP idea will take a fundamental change at the mission statement level for every unit of the University System.

We've been talking about LEAP for two years; we've done the awareness-building, so now we wait for direction. However, we can't wait for the state to tell us what to do. We have to stay ahead of the curve.

The meeting ended at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.