

**General Education Committee
Minutes**

October 17, 2018

Present:	Melinda Tilton Matt Queen Leanne Gilbertson Rebecca Muller Megan Thomas	Jason Comer Tom Regele Cori Day Lance Mouser
Absent:	Tien Chih* Emily Arendt* Josh Hill*	Bernie Quetchenbach* John Roberts* Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)*
	*excused	

Melinda Tilton called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. in the SUB Missouri room.

Ms. Tilton announced that, at the conclusion of the NWCCU site visit, we did not receive a recommendation regarding Gen Ed! Congratulations to the Committee, and good work! Because of this, no meeting with the Assessment & Accreditation Council today.

The minutes of September 19 were accepted as presented.

II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. NWCCU Accreditation Visit Debrief

It was noted that the accreditors seemed to appreciate the consistency between our Gen Ed and the MUS Core. They also noted the biennial chair reviews of courses. They asked us to consider upper division courses—one accreditor seemed very focused on this. However, upper division courses would not fit, given that there is pressure to reduce our Gen Ed offerings. Also, adding upper division courses would make our Gen Ed *less* defensible.

We did receive a commendation for the commitment of our faculty and staff. The accreditors seemed to understand that the instability of top administration has caused difficulty, but the faculty and staff are committed to the students.

The portfolios, which we have discussed as a second assessment tool, were of interest as well. We could incentivize the grading of the portfolio selections!

B. Biennial Review of Gen Ed Courses

The question was raised as to whether we are done with the reviews from this past Spring (2018). It was agreed that having department chairs revise the reports, when our original request was not clear enough, will be a waste of effort by the chairs and the reports wouldn't be finished until this academic year has come to an end.

Instead, we will create a better request and include a report template. It would also be a good idea to include a couple good examples from the Spring 2018 round. The information about the request, including our new outcomes, should go out in April 2019. Then, in Fall 2019, we will send out the official request for reviews, using the new template.

Right now, we can request feedback from the department chairs about the request in Spring 2018 and how it was unclear.

C. Review of Gen Ed Purpose Statement & Recommendation to Senate Regarding Syllabi

The motion making the recommendation to Senate at the last meeting was rescinded. The recommendation had not yet been forwarded.

There was a great deal of debate about sending the request to have the Gen Ed purpose and outcomes on Gen Ed course syllabi now, using our current outcomes, or holding off until the Committee revises the outcomes.

It was noted that really, we need faculty input on our current outcomes and how they should be revised. It was agreed that, despite a possible outcomes revision of the MUS Core that may take months or more, the Committee will move forward with revising our existing outcomes. To that end, Ms. Tilton will send an email to department chairs asking for feedback on our current outcomes. Since the GEC intends to have the outcomes revised by the end of this academic year, the message will include the note that if no feedback is received by the end of February 2019, the department will live with the outcomes as they are.

The Gen Ed Purpose Statement has also been revised to be more active:

General education at MSU Billings is designed to initiate students as participants in the ongoing accumulation of human knowledge and understanding. General education courses promote the development of respect for diversity, along with skills in problem solving, critical thinking, and communication necessary for students to become productive and responsible members of their communities.

- Motion by Matt Queen, seconded by Rebecca Muller to **approve the revised statement (above) as the General Education Purpose Statement.**

- Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.