

General Education Council Minutes
March 26, 2013 10am-4pm

In attendance: LeeAnne Frost, Great Falls College; Kim Haughee, Helena College; Jessica Hopkins, Flathead Valley Community College; Tasneem Khaleel, MSU Billings; Ron Larsen, Montana State University; Garth Sleight, Miles Community College; Lynn Stocking, Missoula College; Chip Todd, Montana Tech; Nadia White; University of Montana; Neil Moisey, OCHE; Karin Janssen, OCHE; Brandi Foster, OCHE.

Review of current policy BOR 301.10. Language suggestions were made throughout the meeting and Brandi will incorporate and send to council for approval before sending to Regents for consideration.

Review of Operational Rules for Students for the MUS. No suggestions for changes, however discussion on a few items occurred. Clarification on what constitutes “significant” content related to the cultural heritage of American Indians may be needed. With Common Course Numbering, similarity for courses in Native American Studies is easier to demonstrate. All campuses do NOT require a diversity course within their own specific cores, but ALL campuses do have at least one course available for students. Discussion on what constitutes a “transfer student” also occurred, particularly for the embedded two-year colleges of the Universities. It was agreed that individual campuses need to define what is considered transfer for their situation. For example, is a student attending Missoula College considered a transfer student to the U of M and therefore can fall under these operational rules for the MUS Core? Currently the definition does vary from campus to campus.

Collaboration with Common Course Numbering. Karin Janssen, the system manager for Common Course Numbering, showcased a newly developed on-line data base which allows searching by campus and by Core categories for courses. A great discussion was had on how to make this database more user-friendly and how it can facilitate the General Education Council’s (GEC) process on how it approves courses to be included in the core.

Action Item: Campuses were asked to be sure that their MUS Core Courses were updated by April 19th so that Karin can populate the database and get it live for council review. Updates can be sent to Brandi. *Because these minutes are coming out a week late, please feel free to extend that deadline to April 26th if necessary.

Conversation was had about the importance of promoting the use of the MUS Core to all campuses and stakeholders. It is felt that not many students use the MUS Core as a tool but no actual data exists. Tracking this would be a campus-level activity and at this time no recommendation is coming from the GEC but this may be a topic for future action.

General Education Assessment. As an added agenda item, individual campus efforts to assess general education was addressed. The two-year campuses seem to have a better handle on how they are doing this assessment campus-wide and they contributed information about their efforts on all levels: course, program and degree. Common learning outcomes are required for all courses. Sometimes faculty embed assessment measures in student assignments, sometimes not. Each campus varies and there is considerable interest in collaborating to find a best practice that fits for each campus. Currently there is no assessment process in place for the system. A few years ago, several individuals attended the American Association of Colleges and Universities meeting on general education assessment using the

LEAP model. A meeting will be forthcoming in June that may allow for further participation from the GEC.

Action Item: Leeanne Frost from Great Falls College will send out the outcome alignment forms used on her campus. Brandi will send out information on LEAP meeting as she receives it.

Individual Campus Presentations on MUS Core course submissions.

Flathead Valley Community College: New courses included SOCI 220 Race, Gender and Class. Art History is classified as a Diversity Course. Some discussion about defining Diversity, especially with consideration to language courses. Many campuses categorize language courses as Diversity courses, but some courses (especially the first intro course) may not have significant cultural content. With CCN, courses across campuses should be similar enough that if they count as Diversity on one campus, why wouldn't they count as a Diversity for other campuses (for the MUS Core, NOT individual campus cores).

Great Falls College: Changes included the deletion of PHYS 130 and the addition of PHYSX 205 College Physics I and CHEM 101 Discover Chemistry—which has no lab.

Helena College: New courses included BIO 260 Cellular and Molecular Biology for their new pre-pharmacy preparation program. They are also working to broaden their environmental science program.

Miles Community College: New courses included BIOH104 Human Biology and NRSM240 Natural Resources Ecology. Updates are needed on some prefixes such as HU to LSH.

MSU Billings: Cheri Johannes will submit updates core courses. Tasneem discussed their general education core is being reduced from 37 credits to 31 credits per their Chancellor. They also purchased a test through ETS with assessment fees from students to do program level assessment. Information on their General Education Committee is available on the website.

MSU Bozeman: Updates are needed on core courses. Ron stated that they are working on a new rubric for Core assessment which will include a 4-year sampling assessment based on outcomes. First Year Seminar and University Seminar courses are included in their MUS core submissions.

Montana Tech: Changes included the deletion of BIOB100 and PSYC 272. Currently there are 300 and 400 level courses on their submissions. The GEC stated that no upper division courses should be on the MUS Core list and so these courses will be removed per the campus. At this point they do not have a course listed for Diversity and so need to be sure that they offer at least one course with content on the American Indian per BOR Policy 303.5.

University of Montana: Updates are needed on core courses. Discussion on the relationship between Missoula College and the main UM campus for “transfer” students was had.

Dawson CC and MSU Northern: representatives were not available.

Future meeting: End of September or beginning of October 2013 will be the next face to face meeting in Billings. A survey will be sent out to determine the best time.