1. Welcome and Introductions
   a. New members were encouraged to acquaint themselves with bylaw definitions of GERC’s responsibilities.
   b. In spite of recent emphasis on initiating gen ed assessment program, GERC’s intended purview extends to broader elements of the gen ed program.
   c. Meetings will be held when warranted by committee business.

2. Minutes: None, all for 2017-2018 were approved last Spring.

3. Announcements
   a. The finalized list of common general education courses has been approved by IRSA. Schools offering these courses are currently aligning numbers and names to state standards (see below). Schools not offering equivalent courses are under no obligation to do so. Going forward, common courses may not be removed from the gen ed curriculum or catalog without prior state approval.
   b. ISU has received $25K from SBOE to support adoption of Open Educational Resources (OER) in general education courses. Distribution of this funding is organized through college Deans.
   c. At the upcoming statewide Gen Ed Summit (9/20-9/21) discipline groups will take stock of current delivery of common general education courses using OER, and address routes to broader adoption. Members broadly agreed that using OER is desirable given high textbook costs, but noted that faculty may not be appropriately credited for creation and implementation of OER.
   d. Statewide Gen Ed Summit will also address alignment of CLEP and AP credit articulation across the state.

4. Approaching GERC due dates:
   a. **September 20, 2018** – all new Gen Ed course proposals/assessment plans. Some courses are expected to submit proposals or plans as part of common numbering initiative (see below).
   b. **October 1, 2018** – reminder to department chairs that Objectives 3 and 4 are up for 5-Year Review this Spring, with departmental 5-year reports due **January 7, 2019** and ORC reports due **April 1, 2019**.
   c. **November 1, 2018** – annual Gen Ed Course Assessment Reports – one report per Gen Ed course. Some Departments will pilot Watermark software instead of using Qualtrics survey.
5. New Gen Ed Course Proposal/Assessment Plans for GERC’s review/approval:

   a. **MUSC 1105 Survey of Rock Music** (prefix may change to MUSI)

      i. Some members raised concerns that the proposal’s treatment of Learning Outcome 7 did not define a demonstrable course outcome aligned with the original Objective outcome language, but instead listed prospective assignments. Others noted that in the past the committee had been satisfied to accept proposals with sample assignments suitable to demonstrate the SBOE-defined outcomes on their own broad terms.

      ii. There was extensive discussion stemming from the proposal’s inclusion of an “internet research paper” among the proposed assignments. Such assignments illustrate a tension running throughout the general education program: while each student’s curriculum should ideally include rich activities like long-form writing, it should also be accessible to students whose writing skills are still developing, and who may not yet have completed ENGL 1101. Several approaches to this problem were discussed:

         - Invite English prerequisites in appropriate courses, just as sciences require math pre-reqs.
         - Encourage departments to formally recommend but not require English preparation when applicable.
         - Scale back writing assignments to simpler exercises where possible.

      Addition of English pre-reqs would allow classes to build more efficiently on learned skills instead of jeopardizing student success or requiring repetition of instruction, but would exclude beginning students. Discouraging writing assignments could improve access but weaken the overall program. **The consensus was to revisit this question at greater length in the future.**

      iii. Motion to approve course and assessment plan.

           Approved (7-0-0)

6. Assembling Objective Review Committees (ORCs) for Objectives 3 and 4

   a. Participating departments to receive reminders in October.
   b. Chair assignments from GERC to be finalized in October.
   c. Better to have a chair inside or outside ORC discipline? Undecided.

7. GERC concerns for statewide Gen Ed Committee and Objective Discipline Groups

   a. Gen Ed Summit Sept 20 & 21 in Boise – [draft agenda](#)
   b. **SBOE Common Course List** – numbering/title/GEM designation
   c. Do CLEP and AP tests assess the defining learning outcomes of each objective? Is it a problem if they don’t, given that they may be more rigorous than many dual credit offerings of the same courses?
   d. Disparity of dual credit instructor qualifications across colleges is an ongoing concern.
   e. Discipline reps should bring concerns about learning outcomes to the meeting – have they proven suitable for assessment, and do they identify core elements of the subject area as intended?
   f. GERC Chair will meet separately with discipline reps prior to the meeting.

8. Issues regarding **UCC’s Common Course Numbering Mass Proposal** for catalog changes

   a. Mass proposal deals with all courses requiring only name and numbering changes to accommodate new common course list. Currently out for impacts.
   b. Consensus to conditionally approve proposal, with the expectation of assessment plans for math courses moving into gen ed program according to state mandate:
MATH 1143 College Algebra – Objective 3
MATH 1147 College Algebra and Trigonometry – Objective 3

c. Related proposals expected for new gen ed courses:

   ANTH 1101/1101L Biological Anthropology (formerly ANTH 2230) – Objective 5
   ANTH 1102 Cultural Anthropology (formerly ANTH 2250) – Objective 6
   Possibly BIOL 2227 Human Anatomy and Physiology I ? – Objective 5

d. Any other issues or concerns: None.

9. Other Business: None

10. Adjourned at 4:30

Approved by GERC: September 25, 2018
Accepted by UCC: September 27, 2018
Accepted by Academic Affairs: October 5, 2018