Minutes
General Education Requirements Committee
State Discipline Group Reps and UCC Executive Committee
Tuesday 25 September 2018
Academic Affairs Conference Room ADMIN 102
2:30-4:30 p.m.

Attendance: Jim Skidmore, Erika Fulton (for Katy Kole de Peralta), Neil Tocher, Shu-Yuan Lin, Spencer Jardine, Andy Holland, Leonid Hanin, Matt Wilson, Paul Cady
Telecom: none
Ex-officio: Joanne Tokle, Sarah Mead, Mark Cooper (ITRC), Geoffrey Bennett (UCC Vice Chair), Susanne Forrest, Catherine Read
Excused: none
Absent: Mikel Cosens;
Guests: none

1. Announcements
None.

2. Minutes for September 11, 2018
Approved without objection.

3. Reminder of upcoming GERC due dates:
   a. September 20, 2018 – all new Gen Ed course proposals/assessment plans
   b. October 1, 2018 – reminder to department chairs that Objectives 3 and 4 are due for 5-Year Review this January
   c. November 1, 2018 – annual Gen Ed Course Assessment Reports – one report per Gen Ed course
   d. January 7, 2019 – 5-Year Reports for Objective 3 and Objective 4 courses
   e. January 8, 2019 – appoint GERC members to chair the Objective Review Committees for Obj 3 & 4
   f. April 1, 2019 – Objective Review Committee (ORC) Reports

4. Report from Sept 20-21 Statewide Gen Ed Summit in Boise
   a. Use of affordable and/or open resources in common general education courses may or may not become a mandate. State will award additional resources to support this goal.
   b. All institutions must accept a score of 3 for AP credit, but alignment with specific courses has not yet been standardized.
   c. Obj 4 group discussed the alignment of language courses with the competencies of the objective, but will take a wait-and-see approach pending assessment.
   d. Obj 6 group recommended to amend III.N policy by requiring courses to satisfy all 5 learning outcomes rather than 4 of 5.
   e. Obj 5 group still objects to the inclusion of ANTH 101 (not common) CHEM 102 (redundant with its own prerequisite), and PHYS 112 (redundant with its own prerequisite) in the common course list.
   f. State GEM committee wants to recognize teaching in gen ed with one annual statewide award in each objective. Nominations will originate from each institution; the evaluation process is not yet determined.
   g. The provost welcomes input, anonymous or otherwise, on the format and usefulness of the meeting.

5. New Gen Ed Course Proposal/Assessment Plans for GERC’s review/approval:
a. **ANTH 1101 & 1101L Biological Anthropology + Lab** -- Objective 5

   i. It was noted that current state policy would force ISU to reassign the course number ANTH 1101 from Elementary Shoshoni I, contrary to regular ISU policy. A UCC proposal has been submitted.

   ii. The status of this course remains somewhat uncertain: it was added by the state to the common list for Scientific Ways of Knowing despite being categorized as such at only one institution, and remains a subject of dispute by the sciences group. The state’s policy affects the context of the course’s evaluation.

   iii. CoSE GERC rep will contact Biology for input regarding possible overlap with BIOL 1100 and 1101. It was moved and seconded that the course be conditionally approved, contingent on favorable response from other impacted departments. The motion was withdrawn and the subject **tabled** pending additional input.

b. **ANTH 1102 Cultural Anthropology** – Objective 6

   i. It was noted that current state policy would force ISU to reassign the course number ANTH 1101 from Elementary Shoshoni II, contrary to regular ISU policy. A UCC proposal has been submitted.

   ii. Some members expressed concerns that the assessment plan doesn’t appear to distinguish achievement of individual outcomes, but instead considers all outcomes satisfied if a threshold of students earn C grades or better. Outcomes should be treated individually to provide guidance for specific course modifications.

   iii. Motion to approve course only (not assessment plan). **Approved (9-0-0)**

c. **HIST 1101 & 1102 World History I and II** – Objective 6

   i. It was noted that state policy forces ISU to reassign the course number HIST 1101 from Foundations of Europe and HIST 1102 from Modern Europe, contrary to regular ISU policy. A UCC proposal is in development.

   ii. Motion to approve both courses and assessment plans. **Approved (8-0-1)**

6. Impact Request: **GLBL 2203** (Obj. 6) Title and description change – [UCC Proposal #xx](#)

   a. New description: “This course will investigate how international organizations resolve conflicts and promote cooperation among countries. Students will take a behind the scene look at international organizations such as the United Nations, NATO, World Bank, WTO, OPEC, etc. We will explore their impacts on peace, human rights, trade, and development via current events. Partially satisfies Objective 6 of the General Education Requirements. F, S, Su”

   b. The changes are intended to more accurately reflect course content, and do not correlate to substantive changes to the course.

   c. There was some discussion of the appropriateness of the new wording: how exactly does this course go “behind the scene?”

   d. Concerns were raised that the course sounds inappropriately biased in favor of cooperative approaches to international relations, which arise from one philosophical viewpoint on the subject. On the other hand, is
it possible to meaningfully discuss these organizations outside the assumptions on which their existence and purpose is predicated? If not, are they a subject too narrow to be an appropriate gen ed course? The cooperative perspective does not represent a change relative to the prior wording of the description. Is it appropriate for GERC to reevaluate the content of courses as they undergo cosmetic changes?

e. Motion to defer to the chair’s discretion to render impact statements on title and description changes that reflect no changes in course content.
   **Approved (6-1-2)**

7. **UCC’s Common Course Numbering Mass Proposal** for catalog changes is awaiting Associate Registrar’s Student Information Systems (SIS) impact response.

   a. Still need Gen Ed Proposals/Assessment Plans for:
      MATH 1143 College Algebra – Objective 3
      MATH 1147 College Algebra and Trigonometry – Objective 3
      Possibly BIOL 2227 Human Anatomy and Physiology I ? – Objective 5

   b. GERC awaits final proposal for review.

8. Other Business

   a. The Department of Mathematics and Statistics has created an internal general education committee.

   b. The Provost suggests consideration of the GERC representation of the Division of Health Sciences, which was recently reorganized into four colleges. This suggests an increase in GERC representation might be appropriate to align with other ISU colleges, but one Health Sciences position remains unfilled and corresponding departments participate in the gen ed program primarily as end users rather than by offering courses. Subject will be revisited at a later date.

8. Adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Approved by GERC: October 9, 2018
Accepted by UCC: November 1, 2018
Accepted by Academic Affairs: November 16, 2018