1. Announcements

   a. The Chair approved content neutral title and description changes for GLBL 2203 and ACAD 1111. The committee discussed whether and how GERC should intervene when objections are raised about existing gen ed courses.

      i. There was broad consensus that it is appropriate for GERC to respond to these concerns, and that the committee could rightfully do so on an ad hoc basis in extraordinary situations.

      ii. GERC’s more typical role is to ensure that as a gen ed course evolves over time it remains true to its original role in the program. This evaluation should already occur in a systematic way as part of the 5-year objective review cycle, and this is generally the preferable context in which to review courses. It may be useful for GERC to invite input from departments outside each reviewed objective to make sure that all voices are represented during this process.

   b. The Chair will send reminders this week to department chairs that Objectives 3 and 4 are due for 5-Year Review this January and faculty representatives will be needed to serve on those Objective Review Committees.

2. Reminder of upcoming GERC due dates:

   a. November 1, 2018 – annual Gen Ed Course Assessment Reports – one report per Gen Ed course

3. Minutes for September 25, 2018

   Approved without objection.

4. Unfinished Business:

   a. ANTH 1101 & 1101L Biological Anthropology + Lab -- Objective 5:

      i. Proposal: Change existing course ANTH 2230 Introduction to Biological Anthropology into ANTH 1101 Biological Anthropology and ANTH 1101L Biological Anthropology Lab in accordance with State Gen Ed Common Course Numbering mandate, which also places this course into Objective 5: Scientific Ways of Knowing. The State’s mandate forces ISU to reassign course number ANTH 1101 from Elementary Shoshoni I and to eliminate the cross-referencing with SHOS 1101. Corresponding UCC Proposal #13 has been submitted to UCC for consideration.

      ii. The Biology department reported no objections to the alignment of the proposed ANTH 1101 course with Objective 5, but raised concerns that its content overlapped considerably with gen...
ed courses BIOL 1101 and BIOL 1100. The position of both departments is that the overlap would not justify cross-listing, and that requiring students to take one life science and one physical science to satisfy Objective 5 (as opposed to any two courses) would be a desirable way to prevent repetition of similar course material.

iii. The suggested division of Objective 5 is common, and was once the policy at ISU. Its implementation would be complicated by state jurisdiction over the GEM objectives, and by transfer considerations. It would add one class to the curriculum of most engineers and some physical science majors who currently satisfy Objective 5 with two physical science courses. The registration system supports several mechanisms for equivalency or mutual exclusion that could limit or discourage students’ enrollment in similar courses.

iv. Several options were considered:
   • Approving the course on the condition that ANTH 1101 is included in the final statewide common course list.
   • Approving the course on the condition that a provision for equivalency or mutual exclusion in the registration system prevent students from satisfying Objective 5 with ANTH 1101 and a biology class.
   • Deferring GERC’s decision to collect more input and compile a list of pros and cons for inclusion of ANTH 1101 in Objective 5.

v. Motion to approve the categorization of Biological Anthropology ANTH 1101/1101L in Objective 5, with the understanding that GERC may revisit options to ensure breadth in each student’s Objective 5 experience pending further developments in the curricula of the courses in question.

   **Approved (7-1-0)**

vi. The assessment plan for ANTH 1101 was not approved, and the department will be directed by the Chair to suggested revisions on the shared document.

b. **ANTH 1102 Cultural Anthropology** – Objective 6
   No action pending previously requested revisions by department.

c. 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

   No action pending receipt of plans.

d. Review GERC membership representation in light of the new Colleges recently created in Health Sciences and decide whether changes are warranted, which would entail changing GERC’s Bylaws. Possible options: could assign one member to represent two Colleges, or one from each College, or…? Faculty workload/availability and small number of Health Science Gen Ed courses are factors to take into account.

   No action pending input from Health Sciences faculty.

5. **UCC’s Common Course Numbering Mass Proposal** for catalog changes.

   a. Proposal awaits Associate Registrar’s Student Information Systems (SIS) impact response. The Biology department is working with the Associate Registrar on a proposal for new Anatomy & Physiology gen ed courses. How that proposal is written could affect the mass proposal.
b. No GERC action pending possible changes from Biology and official State Board approval of common course list (anticipated at Oct. 17-18 board meeting).

6. Appointing GERC representatives to upcoming objective review committees for Objectives 3 and 4.

a. Consensus was that the ideal chair for an Objective Review Committee would come from outside the disciplines under review, but have a sufficient working knowledge of the field to fully participate in the committee work. It was noted that the ORC chair has wide latitude to delegate responsibilities among the group rather than personally reviewing all courses.

b. Jim Skidmore and Spencer Jardine tentatively expressed willingness to chair the Objective 3 and 4 committees, respectively, with assignments to be finalized at the next meeting.

7. Other Business – None

8. Adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Approved by GERC: October 23, 2018
Accepted by UCC: November 1, 2018
Accepted by Academic Affairs: November 16, 2018