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## General Education Subcommittee Minutes, February 16, 2016

Utah State University

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### Recommended Citation

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## GENERAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

**February 16, 2016**

**8:30 am – 9:30 am**

**Old Main - Champ Hall**

**Present:** Dawn Kirby, Chair  
Harrison Kleiner, Connections  
Mary Leavitt, Advising  
Kacy Lundstrom, Library  
Kris Miller, Honors  
Melanie Nelson, USU Eastern  
Michele Hillard, Secretary  
Brock Dethier, Writing Program  
John Mortensen, Student Services  
Karen Mock, Natural Resources  
Dean Adams, Engineering  
Dick Mueller, Science  
Brian McCuskey, Humanities  
Bob Mueller, Regional Campus  
Laura Gelfand, Arts  
Larry Smith, Provost's Office  
Dan McInerney, American Institutions

**Absent:** Jessica Hansen, Academic and Instructional Services  
Lee Rickords, Agriculture and Applied Sciences  
Kathy Chudoba, Business  
Shelley Lindauer, Education and Human Services  
Ryan Dupont, Life and Physical Sciences

Trevor Olsen, USUSA President  
Eddy Berry, Social Sciences  
Stephanie Hamblin, University Advising  
Peggy Petrzelka, Social Sciences  
Cindy Dewey, Creative Arts  
Dan Coster, Quantitative Intensive

**Visitors:** John Louviere, Director, Academic and Instructional Services  
Robert Wagner, Dean, Academic and Instructional Services

**Approval of Minutes** – January 19, 2016

<https://usu.box.com/s/35yz18kfau0q9510pnouhvxwd7lrk3qt>

*Motion to approve the minutes made by Dean Adams. Seconded by Laura Gelfand. Minutes approved.*

**Course Approvals/Removals/Syllabi Approvals**

ARTH 3770 (CI) **APPROVED** .....Brock Dethier

*Motion to approve CI designation made by Laura Gelfand. Seconded by Dean Adams.*

*Designation approved.*

**Business**

*Recent Trends in General Education Design, Learning Outcomes, and Teaching Approaches*

[http://www.aacu.org/sites/default/files/files/LEAP/2015\\_Survey\\_Report2\\_GEtrends.pdf](http://www.aacu.org/sites/default/files/files/LEAP/2015_Survey_Report2_GEtrends.pdf)

Dan McInerney issued a caution regarding how the survey was done. He doesn't believe that the respondents teach students and is therefore concerned about the information. He also wonders if the programs exist in theory or in practice. Committee members agreed that the goals and learning outcomes are still not being understood by the students. A suggestion was made that we could measure this issue by conducting surveys with the sophomores. Gen Ed is a growing priority and employers are looking for skills and integration. Members discussed the practical uses of E-Portfolios, which are suggested in the report. They seem to be popular at SLCC and other universities statewide. Students seem to benefit from the critical thinking involved in compiling the portfolios, but other uses seem to be more for program assessment rather than demonstrating students' learning.

*Meeting Students' needs for Enrollment in Classes*

This subject will be moved to the March Gen Ed agenda.

*Syllabus Tracking Tool (John Louviere)*

John Louviere provide a demonstration of the Syllabus Tracking tool and explained how it can be customized for colleges and departments. The Syllabus Working Group formed by Ed Reeve, Chair of the USU Curriculum Committee and of which Dawn Kirby is a member, will continue working on this issue.

*USU Prefixes vs. College Prefixes*

Several colleges are looking at offering the USU courses with a departmental prefix. By making this change, we may be taking away the intended interdisciplinarity of the courses. Because USU courses are not required, USU courses may slowly fade away. Can we or should we mandate that departments continue teaching USU courses, or how do we propose new prefixes? These discussions will continue until a determination has been made on how and when to move forward.

Adjourned at 9:35 am.



## GENERAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

January 19, 2016

8:30 am – 9:30 am

Old Main - Champ Hall

**Present:** Dawn Kirby, Chair  
Eddy Berry, Social Sciences  
Harrison Kleiner, Connections  
Mary Leavitt, Advising  
Kacy Lundstrom, Library  
Kris Miller, Honors  
Melanie Nelson, USU Eastern  
Barbara Williams for Michele Hillard, Secretary  
Brock Dethier, Writing Program  
John Mortensen, Student Services  
Stephanie Hamblin, University Advising  
Karen Mock, Natural Resources  
Dean Adams, Engineering  
Dick Mueller, Science  
Brian McCuskey, Humanities  
Bob Mueller, Regional Campus  
Peggy Petrzelka, Humanities  
Laura Gelfand, Arts  
Larry Smith, Provost's Office  
Cindy Dewey, Creative Arts  
Dan Coster, Quantitative Intensive

**Absent:** Jessica Hansen, Academic and Instructional Services  
Lee Rickords, Agriculture and Applied Sciences  
Kathy Chudoba, Business  
Shelley Lindauer, Education and Human Services  
Ryan Dupont, Life and Physical Sciences  
Dan McInerney, American Institutions  
Trevor Olsen, USUSA President

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**Call to Order** - Dawn Kirby

**Approval of Minutes** – December 15, 2015

<https://usu.box.com/s/szf33l8cg5u3bdkuinmkno0wlytgfqa>

*Motion to approve the December 15, 2015 minutes made by Dean Adams. Seconded by Brian McCuskey. Minutes Approved.*

## **Course Approvals/Removals/Syllabi Approvals**

<https://usu.curriculog.com/proposals>

ARTH 3340 – African Art (CI) **APPROVED**..... Brock Dethier  
ARTH 3710 – Art, Culture & Crisis in Postwar Britain (CI) **APPROVED**..... Brock Dethier  
ARTH 3910 – Introduction to Film Theory (CI) **APPROVED** ..... Brock Dethier  
*Motion to approve all ARTH courses for CI designation made by Dan Coster. Seconded by Laura Gelfand. Designations approved.*

### **Business**

*USU Course Prefixes and Funding (8:30 – 9:00 am Noelle Cockett)*

The provost stated that funding from the Provost’s office will still be available for Gen Ed breadth courses that have changed from the USU prefix to a more specific prefix as long as additional seats are needed in that particular course. There were discussions about how departments have been and will continue to add seats and help predict the seats that will be needed in future semesters. The Provost’s new budget model will help fund additional seats as needed regardless of delivery mode (online, face-to-face, or broadcast.

The reduction of summer 2015 tuition resulted in a 25% increase in enrollment, most of which occurred in online classes. The “take more—save more” adjusted tuition plan will be in effect for summer 2016 courses, many of which will be general education courses. The first 7-weeks and full 14-week summer sessions are popular. Taking summer courses helps some students complete the 30 credits a year that are needed to remain on-track for on-time graduation. Another issue is that Logan and nearby areas provide only a limited pool of people who are qualified to teach these classes. USU is limited on instructors, classroom space, and getting enough TAs for summer because students continue as RAs to support faculty research rather than working as TAs. UTFs could potentially help with this concern.

This item will be discussed again at next month’s meeting.

### *Syllabus Tracking Tool*

The Curriculum Subcommittee has established a working group look to help standardize a basic course syllabus template. John Louviere has met with the working group and showed them the syllabus tracking tool, which may also serve as a central repository for syllabi. There are certain accreditation items that need to be on all syllabi. This process will assist students, faculty, accreditation needs, and others who review syllabi. John Louviere will be invited to the next General Education Committee meeting to demonstrate the tracking tool.

*Motion to adjourn made by Harrison Kleiner. Seconded by Dawn Kirby. Adjourned at 9:45 am.*