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## General Education Subcommittee Minutes, March 21, 2017

Utah State University

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## GENERAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

**March 21, 2017**

**8:30 am – 9:30 am**

**Old Main - Champ Hall**

**Present:** Lee Rickords, Agriculture and Applied Sciences (Chair)  
Michele Hillard, Secretary  
Elise Anderson, Provost's Office  
Pamela Martin for Kacy Lundstrom, Library  
Barbara Williams, Registrar's Office  
Brock Dethier, Writing Program  
Harrison Kleiner, Connections  
Bob Mueller, Regional Campus  
Laura Gelfand, Arts  
David Brown, Quantitative Intensive  
Stephanie Hamblin, Exploratory Advising  
Dick Mueller, Science  
Chris Luecke for Claudia Radel, Natural Resources  
Konrad Lee, Business  
Brian McCuskey, Humanities  
Cindy Dewey, Creative Arts  
Ashley Waddoups, USUSA President  
Ed Reeve, Provost's Office  
Dan McInerney, American Institutions  
John Mortensen, Student Services

**Absent:** Janet Anderson, Office of the Provost  
Ryan Dupont, Life and Physical Sciences  
Jessica Hansen, Academic and Instructional Services  
Damon Cann, Social Sciences  
Shelley Lindauer, Education and Human Services  
Melanie Nelson, USU Eastern  
Kris Miller, Honors  
Mykel Beorchia, University Advising  
Matt Sanders, Humanities and Social Sciences  
Dean Adams, Engineering

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**Call to Order** – Lee Rickords

**Approval of Minutes** – February 21, 2017

*Motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2017 Gen Ed meeting made by Laura Gelfand.*

*Seconded by Dan McInerney. Minutes approved.*

**Course Approvals/Removals/Syllabi Approvals**

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

PEP 2900 (BCA) **APPROVED**..... Cindy Dewey  
Motion to approve BCA designation made by Cindy Dewey. Seconded by Dick Mueller.

PHYS 2310 (BPS/QI) **APPROVED**.....Ryan Dupont / David Brown  
Motion to approve BPS/QI designation made by David Brown. Seconded by Konrad Lee.

PHYS 2320 (BPS/QI) **APPROVED**.....Ryan Dupont / David Brown  
Motion to approve BPS/QI designation made by David Brown. Seconded by Konrad Lee.

POLS 3200 (CI) **APPROVED** .....Brock Dethier  
Motion to approve CI designation made by Brock Dethier. Seconded by Brian McCuskey.

POLS 3430 (DSS) **APPROVED**..... Damon Cann  
Motion to approve DSS designation made by Konrad Lee. Seconded by Brian McCuskey.

WATS 3910 (DSC/QI) **APPROVED**.....Ryan Dupont / David Brown  
Motion to approve DSC/QI designation made by Chris Luecke. Seconded by Dick Mueller.

### **Business**

Canvas Resource Page for Academic Advisors.....Mykel Beorchia/Harrison Kleiner  
Harrison Kleiner and Mykel Beorchia are putting together training resources for campus advisors. They are requesting the designation subcommittees of Gen Ed to compile a summary (paragraph) which includes the value of the requirements of the degrees for each particular college. This content should be tailored toward a student audience. These paragraphs are to be sent to Harrison Kleiner by April 15. If such content already exists, there is no need to recreate it. A mock-up version of these descriptions will be available for the subcommittees to mirror and use as a reference.

Humanities Designation Subcommittee Evaluation Criteria ..... Brian McCuskey  
The Humanities subcommittee proposed the following addition to its evaluation criteria for course proposals: "The Humanities subcommittee will consider proposals only from departments whose General Education categorization is Humanities. Special cases may apply, but the proposing department will have to explain satisfactorily both its reasons and its resources for offering a course outside its category." The committee's rationale for this rule is that General Education requires students (1) to take six Breadth courses that introduce them to "the nature, history, and methods of different disciplines," and (2) to take two Depth courses in disciplines "outside their major." To guide students as they meet these requirements, USU categorizes each departmental major as Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Physical Sciences, or Life Sciences. It would run counter to the goal of General Education, then, for a department to offer either Breadth or Depth courses *outside of its category*. In offering such a Breadth course, a department would be teaching "the nature, history, and methods" of a discipline *not its own*. Doing so would also allow students to take more than one kind of Breadth course *in the same department*. In offering such a Depth course, a department would be allowing its own majors to meet that Depth requirement *without going outside the major*. The Humanities committee makes this rationale available to other subcommittees, if they wish.  
Motion to approve recommendation made by Brian McCuskey. Seconded by Dick Mueller.

### **Other Business:**

Gen Ed appeals-transfer student course credits. Each one of the subcommittee chairs should make decisions regarding these transfer credits. Each one of these proposals will be routed to the

subcommittee chairs, which is the current method. The committee as a whole is considering changing the process of approving transfer credit courses.

Ed Reeve asked the committee to review the R470 proposal for General Education. Ed has no major concerns, but recommends that members become familiar with this proposal and it is important that the committee is following the guidelines.

Periodic Review of Course Designations- each of the area subcommittees need to be able to access and return to courses that have been approved. Discussion of creating a program for periodic review of older courses was welcomed by the committee. This includes having a process that warns instructors of the course standards required before courses are in session. There needs to be good incentive to change the course syllabus for these instructors. Guidelines for reviewing courses will be established at a later time.

Issues arise from majors that keep expanding their requirements causing pressure to reduce the Gen Ed requirements and to expand their specific discipline's requirements. There needs to be clarification and guidelines prohibiting changing the General Education requirements.

**Adjourn:** 9:30 a.m.