

Utah State University

DigitalCommons@USU

Educational Policies Committee

Faculty Senate

4-17-2018

General Education Subcommittee Minutes, April 17, 2018

Utah State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/fs_edpol

Recommended Citation

Utah State University, "General Education Subcommittee Minutes, April 17, 2018" (2018). *Educational Policies Committee*. Paper 997.

https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/fs_edpol/997

This General Education Subcommittee Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Educational Policies Committee by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usu.edu.





GENERAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

April 17, 2018

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Old Main – Champ Hall

- Present:** Lee Rickords, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences (Chair)
Laura Gelfand, Caine College of the Arts
Shelley Lindauer, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
Dean Adams, College of Engineering
Harrison Kleiner, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Claudia Radel, S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources
Richard Mueller, College of Science
Robert Mueller, Regional Campus
Kacy Lundstrom, University Libraries
Melanie Nelson, USU Eastern
Susan Neel, American Institutions
Brock Dethier, Communications Intensive
Phebe Jensen, Humanities
David Brown, Quantitative Literacy/Intensive
Ed Reeve, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost
Barbara Williams, Registrar's Office
John Mortensen, Student Affairs
Stephanie Hamblin, Exploratory Advising
Mykel Beorchia, University Advising
Kristine Miller, University Honors Program
Matt Sanders, Connections
Jaren Hunsaker, USUSA President
Amber Summers-Graham, Secretary
- Excused:** Konrad Lee, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business
David Wall, Creative Arts
Ryan Dupont, Life and Physical Sciences
Ryan Bosworth, Social Sciences

Call to Order – Lee Rickords

Approval of Minutes – [March 20, 2018](#)

Minutes approved as distributed.

Business

Change in Committee Members

The committee would like to recognize Brock Dethier's service. Brock will be retiring at the end of this academic year. A new Communications Intensive chair will be selected for the next academic year.

Discussion about departments submitting General Education proposals from outside of their General Education categorization.

The USU General Catalog states:

Students are required to take at least two upper-division courses outside of their major. Approved 3000-level or above courses must be taken from two of the following three categories: Depth Humanities and Creative Arts (DHA), Depth Life and Physical Sciences (DSC), and Depth Social Sciences (DSS). Each student must select at least one course from each of the two categories which do not include his or her major.

There was discussion about how some of the conflict surrounding the issue of General Education proposals being submitted by departments from outside of their General Education categorization may be a result of the lack of clarity and agreement about what Utah State University is trying to achieve with depth courses. If the committee clarifies the spirit of depth courses, this could provide clarity when discussing implementation.

If the committee interprets the catalog to mean that 1) Depth courses have to be done outside of a student's major and 2) Depth courses have to be taken in a program outside of a student's major program and programs which do not have the same Gen. Ed. categorization as their major program, then the proposal that the Humanities put forward about General Education categorizations makes a lot of sense. If that is not the shared consensus of the committee then the proposal does not have as much traction.

The Humanities subcommittee's proposal came about because they wanted to avoid getting in the business of questioning the expertise of faculty. If a depth course can be from within the major, the Humanities committee is going to see even more departments submitting "the history of" courses from their department and requesting a DHA designation. Then the subcommittee is going to be even more in the business of assessing faculty expertise. One committee member clarified that when a course is approved, the committee is not approving the faculty member, they are approving the course as described. Faculty members can change and courses exchange hands. The question then to ask is whether the department has the capacity to have a humanist or social scientist who is qualified to teach a course approved outside of their General Education categorization.

One committee member asked if the spirit of depth courses was to expose students to something that is very different from what they are getting in their major. Alternatively, is it about different perspectives and approaches to knowledge and learning and science, etc.? Because those actions would go in two very different ways as to how the committee would implement them. Additionally, most disciplines are moving in the direction of more collaboration. If the committee takes too hard of a line on how students can complete their depth requirements, they will be doing students a disservice. Students need to understand why someone in English needs to know about Science. If they are able to do that within their major and it is an interdisciplinary major, because they are focusing on a variety of different topics, which is a valuable experience.

For the sake of time, it was decided to table this discussion and bring it up again at the beginning of next year. At that time, the committee will address changing the catalog language to consider the proposal that the Humanities Committee has made to address the issue.

Depth Courses and Categorization of Majors - John Mortensen

Last month, the committee briefly discussed the need for the catalog to be updated with correct categorization of majors. The committee wanted to know how the categorizations were created and if the General Education committee can approve the categorization or if the department or college would approve. John Mortensen followed up with Norm Jones and found out that the previously the departments were asked to self-designate and that seemed to work without any problems. It was suggested that the committee could reach out to departments and ask them to self-designate with the final approval by the General Education committee. There are several majors that do not have a categorization at all and because of that, Degree Works allows students to take any two Depth requirements. John Mortensen will work with Mandy Stadel in Degree Works and have her reach out to the departments to get them to self-categorize so that Degree Works can be updated as well.

Update on General Education Course Review

Academic and Instructional Services is exploring the possibility of devising a review system through Canvas that would allow the committee to assess all General Education courses on a five-year rotation. Updates will be forthcoming next year.

Election of a General Education Chair

*Motion to nominate Lee Rickords as the General Education Chair made by Richard Mueller.
Seconded by Dean Adams.* Lee Rickords will serve as chair for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Adjournment: 9:30 a.m.

Next meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on **Tuesday, September 18, 2018**

Depth Course Requirements (4 credits minimum completed in two or more courses)

Students are required to take *at least two* upper-division courses outside of their major.

Approved 3000-level or above courses must be taken from two of the following three categories: **Depth Humanities and Creative Arts (DHA)**, **Depth Life and Physical Sciences (DSC)**, and **Depth Social Sciences (DSS)**. Each student must select *at least one* course from each of the two categories which *do not* include his or her major (e.g., Sociology majors would select one or more 3000-level or above course(s) from the Depth Humanities and Creative Arts and one or more 3000-level or above course(s) from the Depth Life and Physical Sciences).

Categorization of Majors

The courses that must be taken to satisfy University Studies Depth requirements depend on the classification of the student's major. For example, Music is classified in the Creative Arts. Thus, a music major would not need to take a depth course in the Humanities and Creative Arts.

Following is the categorization of majors used for University Studies. These abbreviations are used: **CA—Creative Arts**, **HU—Humanities**, **LS—Life Sciences**, **PS—Physical Sciences**, and **SS—Social Sciences**.

College of Agriculture

Applied Economics, SS

Aviation Technology – Maintenance Management, PS

Aviation Technology – Professional Pilot: Fixed Wing Emphasis, PS

Aviation Technology – Professional Pilot: Rotorcraft Emphasis, PS

Business Education, ?????

Climate Science, ?????

Environmental & Natural Resource Economics, ?????

~~Environmental Soil/Water Science, PS~~

Family and Consumer Sciences Education SS

Landscape Architecture, CA

Outdoor Product Design and Development, ?????

Technology and Engineering Education, ?????

Technology Systems: Information and Computer Technology, ?????

Technology Systems: Product Development, ?????

Technology Systems: Robotics, Automation, and Controls, ?????

Technology Systems: Technical Management, ?????

All other majors, LS

Caine College of the Arts

All majors, CA

Jon M. Huntsman School of Business

All majors, SS

Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services

Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education, SS

Early Childhood Education, (category same as area of emphasis)

Elementary Education, (category same as area of emphasis)

Family and Consumer Sciences, SS -----

~~Family, Consumer, and Human Development, SS~~

Family Life Studies, ?????

Health Education and Promotion, LS

Human Development and Family Studies, SS

Human Movement Science, LS

~~Instructional Technology and Learning Sciences, (no undergraduate degree)~~

Nursing, LS

Parks and Recreation, SS

Psychology, SS

Secondary Education, (category same as teaching major category)

Social Studies Composite Teaching, SS

Special Education, (may use any category)

College of Engineering

All majors, PS

Humanities and Social Sciences

Agricultural Communication and Journalism, LS

American Studies, HU

Anthropology, SS

Asian Studies, HU

Communication Studies, HU

English, HU

French, HU

German, HU

History, HU

International Studies, (category same as area of emphasis)

Journalism, SS

Law and Constitutional Studies, SS

Liberal Arts, HU

Philosophy, HU

Political Science, SS

Religious Studies, HU

Social Work, SS

Sociology, SS

Spanish, HU

~~Speech, HU~~

S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources

Environmental Studies, SS

Geography, SS

Recreation Resource Management, SS

Management and Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems, PS

All other majors, LS

College of Science

Biology, LS

Public Health, ?????

All other majors, PS