# General Education Committee: Minutes

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Lunn Conference Room

Dr. Cindy Peterson, Chair

**Voting Members Present**: Earl Bland, Behavioral Science & Counseling;; Nancy Damron, Education; Jim Edlin, *Christian Ministry & Formation*; Elizabeth Hornor, *History*; Brad King, Health & Exercise Science;

Members Absent: Mark Brown, Mathematics; Dave Wegley, Business; Mark Hayse, Christian Ministry & Formation/Honor's Program

**Non-voting Members Present:** Lauren Hays, *Learning Commons;* Janell Kellum/Sarah Neufeld, Registrar

**Call to Order at 3:10 pm with Welcome & Prayer** by Chair, Dr. Cindy Peterson

**Old Business:** Approved minutes of last F2F meeting – April 1, 2014 (available on Moodle); Approved electronic minutes of 4/17/14 vote on Elementary Math courses. Vote was unanimous for approval.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

A proposal from Health & Exercise Science to add a Yoga class to the list of General Education options for Health/Wellness under Self-Understanding. Proposal is on Moodle. It was moved and seconded.

There was limited discussion about offering it to faculty and the location. Also a question about whether the department has received push back on this course and the instructor’s philosophy of what yoga entails (religion/spiritual world/etc.) There is now an instructor with a Christian approach to the course content. There has not been significant objection to the course. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Philosophy for General Education at MNU from last year’s meetings was brought back for discussion and potential action this year. The following question will be considered:

* + Are courses selected to give students a range of choice to meet outcomes, OR are courses selected because we feel strongly there is foundational content that every student should have in the liberal arts – thus limiting the choices.

The committee looked at the MNU Catalog pages with text about the General Education core goals/philosophy. It was suggested by the chair that a sub-committee be put together to align the philosophy with the University’s new strategic plan and update the language to reflect the new mission/vision statements. It was pointed out that the multiple references to the general core appear to have been written in different era of educational outcomes. There is not consistency among the statements. This will also be a charge of the sub-committee to review and make suggestions for revisions.

The next step will be to begin the process of reviewing the outcomes for alignment with the University/Strategic Plan.

The chair will contact members of the committee for “volunteers” to serve on the sub-committee.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1. Reminder that all General Education committee meetings are open to any interested faculty or program representative.

1. 2014-15 meeting schedule (in Lunn unless notified otherwise):

* Thur. Oct. 09 3:00 pm
* Thur. Nov. 13 3:00 pm
* Potential Dec/Jan meeting if needed for late additions to catalog
* Thur. Feb. 12 3:00 pm
* Thur. Apr. 09 3:00 pm

**There was no new business and the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.**