Members Attending: Amged Eidelsafy, Jie Li (SOM), Sarah Lippert, Cathy Miller (chair), Cameron McLeman, Shan Parker, Chris Waters (ex officio, in place of Roy Barnes), Tyrone Bynoe (SEHS)

Other attendees: Lyndsae Raleigh, Administrative Assistant to the Associate Provost and Chris Waters, Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Committee Members Absent: Ming Li, Barbara Hollie (SHPS), Elizabeth Collardey (temporary leave)

The minutes from the February 11, 2016 meeting were approved. The meeting scheduled for February 25 was cancelled due to the University closing because of snow.

Cathy eloquently synthesizes the major goals for the committee in the upcoming months. In addition to continuing the general mandate to evaluate and look at courses, the committee plans to address the following issues:

- The current organization of the submission/requesting process leaves a lot to be desired, in particular with respect to the amount of feedback that the submitter gets as the request flows through the system. The committee itself would like to completely understand the process, and work toward making it more transparent.
- As the committee passes from infancy into maturity, we can look back and see that the initial allocation of general education designations was done somewhat haphazardly.
- Continuing a long-running theme, we need to make better use of courses assessments in evaluating the efficacy of the courses and general education program in general.

Review of FYE, “Introduction to African American Culture and Society”:

- Requesting FYE Approval
- The committee notes that the course description seems to overlap with “Sights and Sounds of Africa,” and that the course does not appear to meet the “multidisciplinary” expectation describing FYE courses.
- Committee decides to reject the proposal.

The discussion of this course also prompted a more general discussion of FYE courses, their role and future. General student feeling seems to be that the variety in topics and course goals is not the appeal; to the contrary, a more uniform experience providing the students with several essential outcomes would be preferred. The general though, especially with regard to the proposal above, is that a stronger distinction needs to be made between introductory courses and FYE courses. The former can be used to entice students into a major, whereas an FYE course should be multidisciplinary and address these essential outcomes.

The committee elects to start drafting a proposal to faculty council concerning proposed changes to the FYE program.
The committee reviews two requests for general education distribution designation for non-equivalent courses:

- Designating as GS the course “3rd Year, Spanish Reading, Grammar, and Culture” from Brigham Young University.
- Designating as GS the course “EHG025 H15: The Swedish Model in the Labour Market” from the University of Gothenburg.

The committee decides to progress with the “test” cases for evaluating the process. Sarah will submit her “test” course, and Cathy and Jie will work to submit a “real” course from the School of Management.