Chair Jennifer Ricketts called the meeting to order at 3:19 PM. A quorum was established with 10 voting members. Another member arrived midway through the meeting.

I. Welcome
Jennifer welcomed new and returning members. She introduced new members Deborah Dimmett, College of Education, and Ryan Foor, Office of Instruction & Assessment.

II. Course Attribute Change—Tier One Course Numbering System – Abbie Sorg
Abbie, from the Registrar’s Office - Course Approval Services, recommended retiring the former course prefix/number attributes—INDV, NATS, and TRAD—in UA systems and only using the current department prefix and number system (e.g., replacing NATS 102 with PTYS 170B1). Since the new prefix/number system was implemented 3 years ago, most students familiar with the INDV, NATS, and TRAD prefixes have graduated. The former prefixes aren’t meaningful to current students. The Tier One system is recorded on UWGEC’s site (see numbers/definitions) for historical reference. Members had no objections to this change.

III. Subcommittees
The following members agreed to serve on a subcommittee:
- Tier One Subcommittee - Victor Braitberg, Deborah Dimmett, Kim Jones, and Jennifer Ricketts.
- Tier Two Subcommittee - Amy Fountain, Paul Ivey, and John Leafgren.
- Tools and Assessment Subcommittee – Anna Dornhaus, Ryan Foor, Elaine Marchello, Jennifer Ricketts, and Debra Tomanek

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2014
Tom Fleming motioned to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed with 6 in favor and 4 abstentions.

V. Tier One Course Proposal
The Tier One Course Subcommittee presented one new course for consideration:
- ART 160A1, South Asian Visual Art and Culture (Traditions/Cultures and Non-Western/Diversity)
  This proposal meets the content and mechanics criteria for the Tier One study area. However, members noted that 40% of the grade would not be completed by week 8. [NOTE: Members agreed to retain the 8-week “deadline,” regardless of the new 10th week withdrawal deadline.] Other items need clarification: the statement that this course cannot be used for Traditions/Cultures and Diversity Emphasis is incorrect; the Late Work Policy wording is confusing; and the due date for the final project (in lieu of a final exam) should probably be earlier in case students equate it with an exam.

  Kim Jones motioned to conditionally approve this course, contingent upon these minor revisions to the syllabus. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously with 10 in favor.

VI. Tier Two Course Proposal
The Tier Two Course Subcommittee presented one new course for consideration:
• **ENGV 360, Introduction to Close Reading** (Humanities).
  This proposal looks promising and the content is appropriate for a Humanities course, but the syllabus is unclear or missing several criteria: accommodations for Honors students, completion of 40% of the grade by week 8, the length of writing assignments, and the option to revise one written assignment. The Subcommittee recommended not voting on the proposal until the syllabus is complete.

  Members agreed to table the proposal until October. The instructor will be informed of the unclear and missing components of the syllabus and asked to resubmit it for further review.

VII. **Online Education Project (OEP)** – Vin Del Casino, Senior Vice Provost for Online Education
Vin presented a brief overview of the Online Education Project—an initiative to develop and offer online degree programs with the same academic standards as on-campus degrees. Development of an online “campus” to serve new students in southern Arizona and elsewhere requires a fully online General Education component, including Foundations, Tier One and Tier Two courses that meet the same criteria as the on-campus courses, such as laboratory and discussion components.

Vin is assembling a committee to work out the OEP details and to issue a call for program proposals. He encouraged a few UWGEC members to participate, as they will bring expertise on General Education goals, learning outcomes, and policies. The complexities of transforming the General Education Program to a fully-online delivery are vast, so members with UWGEC experience would be helpful in this effort. **Interested faculty should contact Vin.**

VIII. **Request to waive the Second Language requirement for the BAS in Applied Science, Meteorology emphasis**
The Bachelor of Applied Science Degree offered through UA South is designed to follow an Associate of Applied Science Degree from a community college. The Department of Atmospheric Sciences (ATMO) administers the BAS emphasis in Meteorology. The target population is DM Air Force weather forecasters. ATMO faculty believes that the 2nd semester language requirement is an obstacle for students, particularly those in the Air Force who have earned an AAS in Meteorology from the Air University, which does not include foreign language coursework. All other UA-BAS programs include a second language requirement. However, there is one UA precedent for waiving this Foundations requirement; in 1998 the College of Engineering was granted a second language waiver so their BS programs would not exceed the maximum 128-credit hours allowed by their national accreditation agency (ABET).

ATMO’s justification for the waiver is twofold: (1) a 2nd semester language proficiency necessitates more than the 60 units required for a BAS and would therefore be more costly in time and money, (2) this requirement puts the program at a competitive disadvantage with other BAS programs. There is no academic justification for this request.

  **Tom Fleming made a motion to deny the waiver. The motion was seconded and passed with 9 in favor and 1 abstention. The Committee’s recommendation will go to the UGC’s Curriculum/Policies Subcommittee.**

IX. **Tools and Assessment Subcommittee Report** – Anna Dornhaus
Last spring the Subcommittee drafted a set of minimum and advanced student learning outcomes (SLOs) for each Tier One/Two study area. UWGEC approved that preliminary set of SLOs as a basis for testing them with new course proposals this Fall. Before proceeding with that plan, Anna asked the Committee to clarify the role of the General Education Program in UA degrees. She outlined three possible roles: (1) The UWGEC will decide on a set of program-wide and study-area skills that all students should have upon completing the
program, (2) instructors will decide which skills the students should develop in each course, or (3) students will decide which skills they develop based on their course choices. The program’s role and its goals should be identified before the SLOs can be identified and assessed; in essence, a decision on how many SLOs each course should meet depends on the goals of the program.

A straw poll indicated that most members favored a central role for the General Education Program, with a defined set of program-wide and study-area SLOs that all students will have when they graduate. Discussion will continue at the next meeting, October 15th.

Jennifer Ricketts adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Rebecca Pérez, 9.18.14
Edited by Celeste Pardee, 9.22.14