



University Academic Senate
Executive Committee of the Senate
Kristine Mullendore, Chair 2010-11
Nancy Levenburg, Vice Chair 2010-11

Memorandum

TO: Roger Gilles, Chair, General Education Committee

FROM: Kristine Botsford Mullendore, Chair, ECS/UAS 

SUBJECT: Agenda for 2009-10

DATE: August 20, 2010

CC: Gayle R. Davis, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
ECS Members
UCC Members
GES Members

At its retreat in August the Executive Committee of UAS agreed that we should continue to offer some guidance to the standing committees as they embark upon another academic year.

Attached for your reference is the section from the Faculty Handbook which outlines the regular responsibilities of your standing committee. In attending to these regular duties, ECS would like you, as time permits, to address the following matters in no particular order:

1. Structural changes, student success, and resource efficiency

The General Education Committee should complete its 2009-10 charge to review the current General Education program and recommend possible structural changes, taking into account the recent series of campus discussions concerning student success, *time to graduation* and resource efficiency as outlined in its 2009-10 Annual Report to the University Academic Senate at its April 17 meeting. This review should include Basic Skill requirements as this responsibility was integrated into the General Education Committee review responsibilities during the 2009-10 academic year. ECS strongly supports the continued use of data and input from community discussions in as it makes these curricular recommendations.

2. Resource efficiency

The General Education Committee is encouraged to continue to seek efficiencies on behalf of students by evaluating various program expectations—perhaps by revising program goals, perhaps by using a designation system similar to SWS to handle certain goals, or perhaps by changing the requirement that every course needs to pursue every GE goal.

3. General Education Themes

The General Education Committee is encouraged to continue its discussion regarding the role of themes in the program and consider proposing ways in which the program might broaden its notions of themes including the possibility of adding appropriate minors or other alternatives—while adhering to the program's core educational principles. In addition, please consider how best to represent the General Education theme program on student transcripts that are viewed by an external audience.

Thanks for all the work you do on this important committee.

e. **General Education Committee (GEC)**

- i. **Faculty Membership:** Faculty membership of the GEC consists of nine members from the College of Liberal Arts Liberal Arts and Sciences, one from each of the remaining colleges, and one from the university libraries. The term of membership is three years beginning at the end of the winter semester. Terms from those colleges with two or more members are staggered.
- ii. **Student Membership:** One student representative selected by and from the Student Senate for a term of one year.
- iii. **Administration Membership:** The Provost or designee ex officio, non-voting
- iv. **Responsibilities:**
 - a) To review and act upon courses proposed for the Basic Skills Requirements and the General Education Program;
 - b) to review and act upon program requests for exceptions;
 - c) to carry out, on a rotating basis, the review and evaluation of General Education courses and Basic Skill Requirements so that each course is reviewed every three years;
 - d) to call meetings of all faculty to discuss the aims, philosophy, and problems of the General Education Program;
 - e) to propose revisions to the General Education Program as such revisions seem prudent and necessary.