

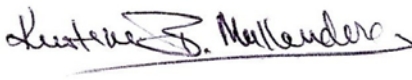


University Academic Senate
Executive Committee of the Senate
Kristine Mullendore, Chair 2009-10
Lawrence Burns, Vice Chair 2009-10

Memorandum

TO: Roger Gilles, Chair, General Education Subcommittee

FROM: Kristine Mullendore, Chair, ECS/UAS

SUBJECT: Agenda for 2009-10 

DATE: August 28, 2009

CC: Gayle R. Davis, Provost
ECS Members
UCC Members
GES Members

At its retreat in May 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. This assistance is intended to support the ongoing work of the members of each committee as they identify and prioritize agenda items for the upcoming 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 and student success

The General Education Subcommittee is encouraged to develop a strategy for ensuring a broadly-based, continuing conversation among faculty members across the entire university regarding the General Education goals and programs. The GES is also encouraged to continue thinking about, discussing, and reviewing plausible structural changes to the General Education program, taking into account the recent series of campus discussions concerning student success, time to graduation, and resource efficiency.

2. Data and community discussion

The General Education Subcommittee is to be recognized for its commitment to "letting the data and community discussion" drive any proposed programmatic changes to the outcomes and aims of the General Education experience. By using these two approaches in tandem the General Education Subcommittee's actions are commendable and ECS strongly supports their continued use in pursuing informed decision making, especially as it guides curricular decisions.

3. Resource efficiency

The General Education Subcommittee is encouraged 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.

4. General Education Themes: Original intentions and goals—and new realities

The General Education Subcommittee is encouraged to discuss 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. It may prove beneficial to include consideration of various ways to identify (or incorporate) and document various characteristics of the different themes which may emphasize specific skills and experiences; thus making the themes more recognizable and marketable. E.g., Some type of Theme-specific transcript notation.

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

e. General Education Subcommittee (GES) of the UCC

i. Faculty Membership: Faculty membership of the GES 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 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.