GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

To: Felix Ngassa, ECS Chair

Cc: C Griff Griffin, Director, General Education Program

From: David Vessey, GEC Chair

Re: General Education Committee End of-the-Year Progress Report for 2023-2024

Date: April 15, 2024

The General Education Committee (GEC) met 21 times in-person this year on Mondays from 3:00-4:30 p.m. This report summarizes the work completed by GEC this semester.

BYLAWS

Teaching Expectations: The following was added to the GEC Bylaws: "b) to provide materials to assist instructors in teaching and assessing the general education knowledge and skills goals."

Optimum Membership/Faculty Representation: This was discussed, and the committee recommended that the numbers remained the same: nine (9) representatives from CLAS, and one (1) from each of the other colleges.

TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT MATERIALS

Teaching Materials: Materials for the Ethical Reasoning, Collaboration, Integration, and Critical Thinking Skills were reviewed and approved to be posted online to aid instructors teaching courses with those skills.

Exemplary CARS: Three CARs were recommended to the Director of the General Education Program as candidates to be posted online as exemplary CARs.

TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT REVISIONS

Revision of Skills Rubrics: The committee reduced the number of objectives to be assessed across most of the skills. They will go into effect in Fall 2024.

New Ways of Assigning Skills: The committee began an exploration of a way to assign skills that would allow units more flexibility to choose skills to best fit their courses. Units were surveyed about how the new process might change the skills they choose for their classes. The results will be discussed in the fall.

Reduction in the Assessment for Courses in Issues and Cultures: In the past courses that were listed in Issues and Cultures had to teach and assess skills from both categories, as many as five different skills. We changed it so those courses only had to teach and assess the three skills connected to Issues: Problem Solving, Collaboration, and Integration.

CURRICULUM

GE Course Proposals: GEC reviewed eight (8) regular course proposals. Six were sent back for amendments and have been approved. One was approved without amendment. Two (2) were chosen as models for other curriculum proposals. We also approved three (3) Special Topics courses for the General Education Program.

Digital Literacy: GEC reviewed a winter 2023 survey about the viability of adding Digital Literacy. The committee revised the definition and the objectives for a Digital Literacy Skills and surveyed the unit heads who have courses in the Arts Foundation, the Mathematical Sciences Foundation, and Global Perspectives. After discussing the survey, the Committee again revised its definition, developed a rubric to fit the definition, and included the new definition and rubric in the survey for the revised selection of skills.

ASSESSMENT

Course Assessment Report Review: GEC reviewed and replied to ninety-seven (97) Course Assessment Reports (CARs). The GE Committee approved eighty-four (84) of them. Eight (8) courses were given a Warning, which requires reassessment in the next semester the courses are offered. Five (5) courses were placed on Probation, which requires them to pass a reassessment in the next semester that the courses are offered, or they will be removed from the General Education Program. The GEC Chair and/or GE Director communicated regularly with units and instructors whose courses will be reassessed to offer suggestions and recommendations for a successful assessment next semester.

Revision to CAR Feedback Forms: Changes were made to streamline the feedback forms and some standardized language was recommended to help reviewers provide consistent feedback.

Revision to Course Recertification Policy: The committee changed its Recertification Policy such that the first time a course either fails to complete a CAR or submits an unacceptable CAR they will receive a "Warning." They must reassess the following semester. If the next CAR is also unacceptable, they will be put on "Probation," must reassess again, and must meet with either the Director of General Education Program or the Chair of GEC. If the CAR is unsatisfactory for a third time, the course will be removed from the General Education Curriculum

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

GE Website Revision: The website went live during the fall semester and small revisions are ongoing.

Review of Assessment and Enrollment Reports: The committee reviewed and approved the 2022-23 Assessment Report and reviewed the enrollment data from 2023.

ECS CHARGES
Charge 1: Example Curriculum Proposals:
    Completed: Two proposals were selected as model proposals.
Charge 2: Digital Literacy Rubric: SHORE log 1384-2023
     Completed: Completed and approved on March 11, 2024.
Charge 3: Digital Literacy Learning Skills Objective: SHORE log 1385-2023
    Completed: Arrived as a provisional definition and a rubric. Exploring ways to
        integrate it in a new way to organize skills goals.
Charge 4: Teaching Materials: SHORE log 1386-2023
    Completed: Uploaded to the GEC Website in Oct 2023.
Charge 5: GEC Website: SHORE log 1387-2023
    Completed: Went online and is undergoing updates as needed.
Charge 6: Teaching Expectations: SHORE log 1388-2023
    Completed: Bylaws change approved by UAS on Oct. 27, 2023.
Charge 7: Optimum Membership/Faculty Representation:
    Completed: Discussed on 11/27. The committee recommends no changes.

This report fulfills the charge of producing an end-of-the-year progress report.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Hsiao-Ping Chen, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Phyllis Curtiss, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Brian Drake, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Gabriele Gottlieb, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Firas Hindeleh, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Dennis Malaret, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
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David Vessey, Chair, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
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Lorie Tuma, College of Education and Community Innovation
Rajvardhan Patil, Padnos College of Engineering & Computing
Chad Sutliffe, College of Health Professions
Shelby Fredericks, College of Nursing
Maya Hobscheid, University Libraries

Ex Officio Members:
C. Griff Griffin, Director, General Education
Erica Hamilton, Office of the Provost