

MEMORANDUM

TO: Felix Ngassa, Chair of the Executive Committee of the University Academic Senate
CC: C. Griff Griffin, Director, General Education Program
FROM: General Education Committee—Gabriele Gottlieb, Chair
DATE: December 12, 2020
SUBJECT: General Education Committee Mid-Year Report

The General Education Committee (GEC) met 6 times virtually over zoom this semester on Mondays from 2:30-4:30 p.m. and can report progress in the following areas.

Curriculum: We considered 16 course proposals, with several resubmissions. As of this writing, the GE Committee has approved 14 courses and is awaiting revisions on remaining two courses. Most of these courses were part of the PK-6 program revision by the College of Education. Recently approved General Education courses can be found by visiting <http://www.gvsu.edu/gened/recent-changes-180.htm>.

Assessment: During the fall semester, we reviewed and replied to 11 Course Assessment Reports (CARs). For the review, we used a revised version of a rubric. The review of CARs was considerably lower this semester (down from about 50 CARs per semester) due to many faculty members postponing assessment because of the switch to online teaching in March 2020 due to the Covid pandemic.

In the fall semester, the GEC asked ECS and UAS to pause GE assessment for the academic year of 2020/2021 based on the Provost's request to reduce faculty workload during the pandemic. This was the only way for the Committee to significantly reduce workload of faculty teaching GE courses as well as for members of the Committee. The request was approved.

UAS Charges – 2020-2021

1. Assessment Implications of COVID-19

Make recommendations about scaling back or delaying assessment of GE courses during the fall of 2020 while considering our assessment plan to satisfy HLC expectations. Consult with Chris Plouff from the Provost's Office.

See above under assessment.

2. Teaching about Systemic Racism

Review the General Education curriculum - particularly US Diversity and Global Perspectives student learning outcomes – and recommend revisions to increase students' understanding of the impact of systemic discrimination and racial inequity on individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

Due to the urgency of passing the PK-6 program change (College of Education) during the fall semester, we will address this charge during the winter semester.

3. Equity in Learning

Review the data from the General Education learning outcomes assessment from the previous two cycles to determine whether they reveal demographic differences in student learning outcomes and make recommendations.

Due to the urgency of passing the PK-6 program change (College of Education) during the fall semester, we will address this charge during the winter semester.

4. In an effort to engage more faculty in our shared governance system, prepare a 1-2 page mid-year progress report at the end of the Fall semester to be disseminated to ECS/UAS and College Deans (a full report is expected as usual at the end of the year).

This report fulfills this charge.

Attendance: The GEC met six times. The number after the member's name represents how many meetings they attended during the fall semester.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences: Abdullah Alrebh (6); Phyllis Curtiss (6); Brian Drake (6); Gabriele Gottlieb (6; chair); Leon Lou (6); Dennis Malaret (4); Robert Rozema (contributed remotely); Amy Stolley (6); Patrick Thorpe (5); Seidman College of Business: Dori Danko (4); College of Community & Public Service: Emily Nichols (5); College of Education: Linda Pickett (6); Padnos College of Engineering & Computing: Shirley Fleischmann (6); College of Health Professions: vacant; Kirkhof College of Nursing: Kim Lohr (6); Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies: Rachel Peterson (5); University Libraries: Maya Hobscheid (6); Student Senate (1).

Gabriele Gottlieb - GEC Chair, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Abdullah Alrebh, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Phyllis Curtiss, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Dori Danko, Seidman College of Business

Brian Drake, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Shirley Fleischmann, Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

Maya Hobscheid, University Libraries

Kim Lohr, Kirkhof College of Nursing

Leon Lou, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Dennis Malaret, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Emily Nichols, College of Community & Public Service

Rachel Peterson, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies

Linda Pickett, College of Education

Robert Rozema, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Amy Stolley, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Patrick Thorpe, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

No representative (Fall 2020), College of Health Professions

Ex Officio Member:

C. Griff Griffin, Director, General Education

Ellen Schendel, Office of the Provost