

MEMORANDUM

TO: Felix Ngassa, Chair of the Executive Committee of the University Academic Senate
CC: Carol A. Griffin, Director, General Education Program
FROM: General Education Committee—Gabriele Gottlieb, Chair
DATE: December 8, 2017
SUBJECT: General Education Committee Mid-Year Report

The General Education Committee (GEC) met 12 times this semester on Mondays from 2:30-4:30 p.m., and can report progress in the following areas.

Curriculum: We considered sixteen course proposals, with several resubmissions. As of this writing, there have been thirteen approvals and the committee is awaiting revisions on three more courses. 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 32 Course Assessment Reports (CARs). The GEC composed reply letters to each CAR, giving faculty and departments further insight into what portions of their response we valued most highly and what additional information or improvements we would like to see in the future. The dedication to high quality instruction by faculty was evident in the authors' thoughtful and in-depth reflections throughout the CAR reports. Only one of the CARs was deemed inadequate and sent back for revision as the data seemed good but information on teaching and assessment was not forthcoming.

UAS charges 2017-2018

1. Review GE Foundations categories, and make recommendations for changes if/as warranted. Include thorough justifications for any proposed changes (Fall 2017 priority).

After careful review of peer institutions as well as select other universities in Michigan and a thorough discussion in the GEC over several meetings, members of the committee came to the conclusion that changes to the General Education Foundations are not warranted at this time. The committee members were involved in a lengthy discussion about the possible separate category for interdisciplinary courses but do not currently see how to do that in a credit-neutral way.

We did, however, decide to change the category World Perspectives to Global Perspectives to align GVSU language to that of peer institutions. In the process, we consulted those units that teach courses in World Perspectives to collect their feedback on the change. All the responses we received were positive and therefore we initiated the change, which we hope to have in place for 2018-19.

2. Suggest Professional Development workshops and other resources for teaching online courses that FTLC or others might host for teaching General Education Skills.

The Provost's Office provided grants to any faculty member interested in developing a course online. The grant covered a \$500 professional development allocation as well as registration in Online Learning Consortium workshops and a book. There are currently eight faculty participating. We also have discussed other strategies such as a promotional video with faculty discussing online teaching and posting exemplary teaching strategies and best practices for online courses.

3. Continue to monitor and improve the General Education assessment process by, in part, including an analysis of the GEP Report in the GEC's EOY report.

During the fall semester, the General Education Director offered 30-minute assessment workshops on both campuses and at varying days and times. These assessment training sessions did not require any registration and faculty could just drop into any of the workshops. The twenty-eight workshops were held over a period of four days. The Director also conducted three one-on-one sessions for faculty who could not attend any of the other workshops.

Furthermore, the General Education Committee held workshops to present assessment results of Content Student Learning Outcomes to faculty, which included an explicit discussion of the assessment process and ways to improve it. During the fall semester, we held four workshops for Foundations (Philosophy and Literature, Mathematical Sciences, and Historical Perspectives) and Cultures (U.S. Diversity). These workshops will continue during the Winter semester, addressing the remaining Foundations, Cultures, and Issues, and then the various Skills Student Learning Outcomes.

4. Provide a report on the assessment of the General Education outcomes (identified as institution-level undergraduate outcomes) to UAC for review according to the assessment process outlined on the UAC website (www.gvsu.edu/uac).

The GEC chair and the GEC director met with the chair of UAC and a representative of the Office of the Provost to discuss this charge. One of the main issues is that the General Education Program is a university-wide program and therefore includes a wide variety of categories and departments, which will be difficult to fit into GVAssess. Furthermore, the General Education Program assesses its courses on a three-year cycle compared to a two-year cycle for individual departments. It will be impossible to adjust the GE assessment cycle as both committee members and faculty who teach (and therefore assess) GE courses are stretched to the limit in

fulfilling the demands of assessing such a large program. The GEC and UAC are currently working on a solution for these issues.

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

This report will be posted on the GEC website.

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