



To: Felix Ngassa, ECS Chair

Cc: C. Griff Griffin, Director, General Education Program

From: Robert Adams, GEC Chair

Subject: General Education Committee Mid-Year Report for 2021-2022

Date: December 14, 2021

The General Education Committee (GEC) met 11 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 5 course proposals, some with multiple resubmissions. As of this writing, the GE Committee has approved 4 of them.

Assessment: During the fall semester, we reviewed and replied to 3 Course Assessment Reports (CARs), and 2 Course Assessment Plans. The GE committee approved all but one of them.

Sail/Rubric Forms: We started conversations about the clarity of the GE form in Sail and the Course Assessment Rubric .

- Simplified the assessment choices on the Sail form. Some choices were redundant or obsolete.
- Clarified the language for the Collaboration skill to explicitly mention that the skill requires students to work on a team for a significant amount of time.

Creative Thinking: We continued conversation with units interested in a "creative thinking" objective in place of critical thinking. Initial polling showed some interest, but the response rate was low. GEC speculates that the topic might generate more interest when units have more available time, so we will call for a meeting of interested units in January 2022.

ECS Charges

- **Leadership and Succession Planning:** The GEC approved updated by-law language and submitted a report on SHORE in September.
- **Teaching about Systemic Racism**
 - **US Diversity:** The GEC engaged with units teaching courses in the US Diversity category to determine if they currently teach about racism, and if not, their willingness to do so. Of those that reported they do not currently teach about racism, it was clear the units thought the topic important. With the help of the units, GEC created an updated description of the category as well as a third learning objective, and shared this with the units.
 - **Global Perspectives:** The GEC performed an initial survey of all faculty teaching courses in GP. The survey asked about whether discrimination or racism were currently being taught in their course, and if not, their likelihood of introducing

the topic in the future. Although the response rate was a respectable 55%, there was not a clear consensus to warrant making a final decision. In the Winter we will be reaching out to faculty teaching in GP to collect more information.

- **Mid-Year Report:**

This report fulfills this charge.

Robert Adams, Chair

Abdullah Alrebh, 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

Leon Lou, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Dennis Malaret, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Robert Rozema, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Amy Stolley, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Patrick Thorpe, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Dori Danko, Seidman College of Business

Emily Nichols, College of Education and Community Innovation

Linda Pickett, College of Education and Community Innovation

Rajvardhan Patil, Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

Chad Sutcliffe, College of Health Professions

Heather Chappell, Kirkhof College of Nursing

Steeve Buckridge, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies

Maya Hobscheid, University Libraries

No student representative

Ex Officio Members:

C. Griff Griffin, Director, General Education; Ellen Schendel, Office of the Provost