

General Education Committee Annual Report 2002-03

Committee Members: Hilla Israely, Robert Emry (chair), Patricia Szeszulski, Stewart Long, John Koegel, Steven Davis, Paul Levesque, Claire Palmerino (Ex-Officio), Sylvia Alva (Ex-Officio), Jack Bedell (Executive Committee, Academic Senate, Liaison).

1.0 The committee was productive and held 8 two hour meetings each semester. In addition, three subcommittees were formed and these subcommittees spent numerous hours reviewing curriculum and consulting with department chairs and university faculty.

2.0 The committee continued its review of carry-over courses from last two year's work plans in General Education category III. B.1, "Introduction to the Arts" and III.B.2 "Introduction to the Humanities", while initiating the review of courses in III.B.3, "Implications and Explorations in Arts and Humanities." The committee had hoped to complete its review of these three categories but a number of courses remain under review (see attachment 1).

3.0 During the 2002-3 Academic Year the following new courses were reviewed and recommended to the Academic Senate by the General Education Committee for inclusion in the General Education Program: HIST 320, Modern European History (2789-Present); LTAM 300, Topics in Latin America; MUSIC 102, Introduction to American Folk Music; CAS 315, Child Development; CAS 360, Adolescents and the Media; AMST 395, California Cultures; CPRL 367 "Latino/a spirituality and Religion; CPRL 397, Religion and Science; HONR 210A, Honors Seminar: World Civilization to 1500; and HONR 210B, Honors Seminar: World Civilization since 1500.

4.0 The General Education Committee established an Ad Hoc GE Assessment Committee late in the Spring Semester. The ad hoc committee membership is as follows: Joe Arnold, Arts; Roger Nanes, NSM; Suellen Cox, Library; Claire Palmerino, Academic Advisement; Pat Szeszulski (Chair) HDCS; Sue Parman, HSS; Delores Vura, Analytical Studies; Lee Gilbert, HSS; Sylvia Alva (Ex-Officio) Academic Program; and Bob Emry (Ex-Officio) Com.

5.0 The General Education committee made one modification and one addition to its working review guidelines.

- General Education Writing Requirement: After consultation with Allan Saltzstein, the committee concluded essay examinations potentially could satisfy the General Education writing requirement. That is, if the grade on the essay examination is based on both content and writing quality and if the student receives feedback on his or her writing as well as has an opportunity to profit from this feedback, then the committee feels an essay examination could meet the General Education writing requirement. It would also be important to note in the course outline how much of the examination grade was dependent on writing

- quality as well as indicate the learning goals met by the course (GE Committee Minutes, March 7, 2003).
- Review of New Courses: The following statement is to be added to the Committee's working guidelines: "New courses proposed for inclusion in the General Education Program shall be forwarded to the General Education Committee for review (per UPS 411.200) Review of new course proposals by the General Education Committee shall occur in two phases. In phase one, all new course proposals will be distributed to members of the committee at least ten working day prior to placement on the agenda as a discussion item. During the discussion of the course, committee members will have an opportunity to review and ask questions which may require further consultation. Phase two commences when such course is placed on the agenda as an action item (G.E. Committee Minutes, May 23, 2003).

6.0 During the 2003-4 Academic Year, the General Education Committee will start the review of the Mathematics and Natural Sciences category of General Education. In January of 2003, the chair of the General Education Committee met with the associate dean and the chairs of the College of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and during the Spring Semester, a group of faculty, the chairs, the associate dean and the dean from this college met with the General Education Committee to discuss generally the process of recertification, particularly the implementation of the writing requirement in Mathematics and Natural Science courses. The committee was most encouraged by the outcomes of these meetings and the proactive participation of the college in the recertification process.

7.0 The 2002-3 General Education Committee recommends that the 2003-4 General Education Committee consider the following

- Entering discussions with the University Curriculum Committee for the purpose of identifying shared guidelines for reviewing new courses. Of course, the General Education Committee would apply additional guidelines to ensure a course's appropriateness in the General Education Program.
- Discussing, identifying and applying appropriate indicators of academic rigor and quality in the course recertification process in the General Education Program. Clearly the work of the ad hoc committee on assessment will assist in this effort yet the committee may want to request additional information in the recertification process such as course grade distribution, etc., determining the rigor and quality of courses requesting recertification (G.E. Committee Minutes, May 23, 2003).
- Establishing review subcommittees around curriculum areas rather than randomly assigning courses to subcommittees. This was suggested by Pat Szeszulski as a way of facilitating communication between the subcommittees and the academic departments and subcommittees' expertise in curriculum areas.

8.0 The minutes of the May 23, 2003, General Education Committee have not been approved.