

General Education Council
Annual Report
Calendar Year 2006

The General Education Council is a joint senate committee. The University guidelines state:

Appointment: The President shall appoint 13 members to this committee from the majority of baccalaureate degree-granting colleges within the University, and the Senate will elect three members from the faculty at large (16 members).

Chair: The Chair is appointed by the President or the President's designee.

Responsibilities: The General Education Council has oversight responsibility for the general education component for baccalaureate degrees offered by the University.

1. It is committed to an exploration and understanding of the contributions of general education to the total education of the student. This function is a dynamic one which requires continuous review of the purposes of general education and the implementation process.
2. The General Education Council recommends and provides implementation details for instruments or processes to be used to assess the consistency of general education objectives and outcomes.
3. It reviews, in accordance with established criteria, all courses proposed to fulfill General Education. It makes recommendations to the Curriculum Committee regarding the continued effectiveness of the general education program.
4. The General Education Council is also charged with oversight responsibility for the University's Writing and Math requirement. It reviews in accordance with established criteria, all courses proposed to fulfill the Writing and Mathematics requirements. It makes recommendations to the University Curriculum Committee regarding the continued effectiveness of such requirements.
5. It considers student and/or faculty petitions to receive/give credit for course work not in the relevant inventory.

The decision to deliver a course that meets the appropriate criteria rests, of course, with the faculty and the Department. The Council's oversight responsibilities are manifested in establishing criteria for course inclusion and certification of courses at time of application.

Current Membership:

Theresa Antes, Assistant Professor, Romance Languages & Literature

Fiona Barnes, Director of Center for Management Communications, Business Administration

David Bloomquist, Associate Professor, Civil & Coastal Engineering

Timothy Brophy, Associate Professor, Music

Eva Czarnecka-Verner, Professor, Biological Sciences

Jane Douglas, (ex officio) Associate Professor, Management Communications, Business

Joe Glover, (ex officio), Interim Dean, Liberal Arts & Sciences

Linda Hon, Senior Associate Dean, Journalism
Yumiko Hulvey, Associate Dean, Liberal Arts & Sciences
Gary Ihas, Professor, Physics
Virginia LoCastro, Associate Professor, Linguistics
W. Andrew McCollough, Senior Associate Dean, Business (Committee Chair)
Lynn O'Sickey, Senior Associate In, Advisor, Liberal Arts & Sciences
Kim Tanzer, Professor, Architecture
Galen Trail, Associate Professor, Tourism, Recreation & Sport Management
Theresa Vernetson, Assistant Dean, College of Education
Richard Weldon, Associate Professor, Food and Resource Economics
Joseph Wilson, Assistant Professor, Computer & Information Sciences

Meetings: Every two weeks, Bryan 100

A. Oversight Actions

1. Monitored and maintained the relevant curriculum inventory which consists of:

General Education

Composition (26 courses)
 Mathematics (48 courses)
 Humanities (434 courses)
 Social Sciences (191 courses)
 Physical/Biological Sciences (173 courses)
 International/Diversity (347 courses)

Writing and Math Requirement

Writing (285 courses)
 Math (64 courses)

2. Considered forty three (43) requests for certification as a General Education course and/or a course meeting the Writing and Math requirements.

Approved	30
One time Approval	6
Denied	4
Tabled	3 (subsequently, 1 approved; 2 denied)

3. Considered sixty three (63) petitions by students for GenEd/Writing and Math Requirement credit for a course not in the approved inventory.

Approved	59
Denied	4

4. Solicited and reviewed student evaluations from five General Education courses.

5. Conducted student focus groups, end of Spring term, regarding students' experiences with the "University Curriculum".

B. Initiatives

1. Proposed and passed by the Faculty Senate that the International/Diversity credit requirement (6 hours, conjunctive) be specified as 3 hours, International and 3 hours Diversity. Scheduled to take effect Summer B 2007.
2. Proposed and passed by the University Curriculum Committee dual grading for the Writing Requirement Courses (attached), pending Faculty Senate action.
3. Established new area descriptions for General Education and specified student learning outcomes for each area. Will appear in 2007-08 catalog.
4. Proposed an outcome assessment for General Education. Initial tool will be ETS MAPP exam to be given to Spring 2007.