

General Education Committee Oakland University

Annual Report 2006-2007

Membership

Faculty:

Andrea Eis, Chair (Art and Art History)
Cathleen Breidenbach (Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism)
William Connellan (Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism)
Debatosh Debnath (Computer Science and Engineering)
Shawn Lombardo (Library)
Anne Mitchell (Nursing)
Carolyn O'Mahony (Teacher Development and Educational Studies)
Anandi Sahu (Economics)
Thomas Suda (Music, Theatre and Dance)

Ex-officio:

Susan Awbrey (Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education)
Carmen Etienne (Professional Advisors' Council) fall 06 and winter 07
Jennifer Gilroy (Registrar liaison)
Laura Schartman (Assessment Committee liaison)
David Tindall (Professional Advisors' Council) spring and summer 07

Student Representative:

Danielle Fallis

Meetings

The General Education Committee (GEC) met five times in Fall 2006, seven times in Winter 2007 and twice in Spring 2007. The committee corresponded via email to conduct its business during Summer 2007.

Minutes

Minutes of General Education Committee meetings dating back to fall 2000, which had been made available online last year, were removed from the Committee's website because of FERPA issues. Sets of minutes were created with student-related issues listed only as statistics, and they will be returned to the website in fall 2007. The Committee Chair retains full copies of all minutes in the GEC files.

Petitions of Exception for General Education Requirements

The GEC reviewed 44 Petitions of Exception for general education requirements. Of these, 34 were approved and 10 were denied. An additional 12 Petitions were deferred with requests for additional information (any that were returned with the additional information are counted in the total of reviewed Petitions). Further breakdown by petition type is given below.

Basis for Approved Petitions of Exception

Advisor error: 7
1 credit of Gen Ed waived: 7
One-time circumstances/substitute coursework: 15
Upper-level coursework completed: 3

Basis for Denied Petitions of Exception

Course not acceptable: 11

Less than 31 Gen Ed credits: 1

Transfer Course Reviews for General Education Requirements

The Committee reviewed 111 Transfer Course Review requests against both old and new general education requirements. Of these, 74 were approved and 37 were denied. An additional 12 Reviews were deferred with requests for additional information (any that were returned with the additional information are counted in the total of reviewed Transfer Course Reviews).

Transfer Course Reviews: Colleges and Universities

The Committee reviewed 70 courses from other colleges and universities for transfer to OU as fulfilling general education requirements. Of these, 46 were approved and 24 were denied. An additional 11 courses were deferred until more information could be obtained (such as whether a course fulfills the lab requirements for NST).

New General Education Course Approvals

The Committee approved an additional 29 courses for the General Education Program in the 2006-2007 academic year. 427 courses have been approved to meet requirements in the new program. (Note that some courses were approved for more than one area.) Those approved fall into the areas below:

	New	Total
Writing Foundation	0	1
Formal Reasoning	0	16
Arts	0	17
Foreign Language and Culture	1	12
Global Perspective	0	15
Literature	0	15
Natural Science and Technology	1	21
Social Science	0	17
Western Civilization	0	10
Knowledge Applications	6	54
US Diversity	2	44
Writing Intensive in General Education	5	31
Writing Intensive in the Major	8	101
Capstone	6	73

Notes:

- * one course was withdrawn from KA and WIGE by the department (WS399), as it is a course that is only appropriate for majors
- * one course was withdrawn from CAP by the department (AH490), as the department decided that a single capstone course (AH491) was more appropriate than two options

- * one course was given final ok after being provisional in FLC
- * one already approved CAP was given approval as CAP for an additional major (PS458) * one course given KA approval for one-time topics course only (RHT370 for Fall 2007 only)

A serious issue that the Committee discussed was the shortage of Writing Intensive in General Education courses. As more students get closer to graduation under the new General Education program, the small

number of WIGE courses will become a critical problem. The GEC will be bringing this issue, along with others that have arisen as the new General Education program has moved through implementation, to the Senate in the fall of 2007. Some of these issues were recognized through the completion of committee work. Representatives of the Professional Advisors' Council and the Registrar's Office also brought some issues to the Committee's attention.

A review was also conducted to determine which majors still did not have Capstones and Writing Intensive in the Major courses. While twenty-five majors *appear* to be missing one or both, clarification still needs to be sought from departments and schools on which capstones and WIM courses are meant to apply to which majors. Many course proposals did not specify which majors these courses applied to, and the catalog major requirements are also unclear for several areas, so the problem may not be as broad as it appears. Follow up will conclude this review in fall 2007.

Course Assessment Plans

The Committee reviewed 29 Assessment Plans for General Education courses. The Committee had not required Assessment Plans to be submitted at the same time as the original proposals, though some all Assessment Plans were supposed to be forwarded to the GEC by March of 2006. Some are still outstanding. The Committee will continue to review plans on an ongoing basis as they are submitted, and to follow up on those still missing plans.

The first Assessment Reports under the new General Education program will be due in October 2007 for Formal Reasoning, Arts, and Social Science courses. The Committee voted to allow a one-year postponement of the review for the Writing Foundations course, RHT160, due the Rhetoric faculty's work on possible significant adjustments to this critical course.

General Education Program Materials

A subcommittee was formed to review General Education printed and web materials, in conjunction with the review of university printed and web materials by the First Year Experience Task Force. Substantive ideas for revision and clarification of these materials were developed, and are being implemented on an ongoing basis as appropriate, or forwarded to the First Year Task Force or the Senate, as appropriate. A web tutorial for students on General Education requirements is under development.

Submitted by
Andrea Eis
Chair, General Education Committee
August 13, 2007