

Memorandum

To: University Senate
From: Walli Andersen, Chair *Walli*
Rhetoric, Communication & Journalism
RE: Summary of 1997-98 Annual Report
Date: August 29, 1998

Membership: Walli Andersen (RCJ), chair; Susan Awbrey (Provost), ex officio; Pat Bennett (Advising Network), ex officio; Jenny Gilroy (Registrar), ex officio; Jerry Grossman (MTH); Niels Herold (ENG); Nathan Longan (MLL); Nivedita Mukherji (SBA/ECN); Sarah Newton (NRS). No student representative was ever identified for the committee.

Meetings: The General Education Committee met 5 times Sept.-Dec. and 6 times Jan.-Apr.

Accomplishments

- regular triennial review of courses (Arts, Literature)
- revision of the guidelines and questionnaires used for the triennial review of courses
- approval of 4 new courses (CHM 157, 167; PHY 120; PS 323) and 2 revised course descriptions (for ENG 100 and 111) for General Education
- proposal to revise the general education requirements for second-degree students (U2): that second degree undergraduates' General Education requirements be parallel to students under the MACRAO agreement. Senate discussion will resume in 1998-99.
- examination of/decision on 45 petitions of exception for General Education requirements (see below for details)
- development of committee policy on General Education exceptions for students in distance learning programs at remote sites: "until the rules are changed, we will try to waive categories for [distance learning] students (*the committee will also recommend approval for other remote sites on a site by site basis*) if they take the required general education courses at the host 2-year school, even though these courses will not formally transfer to OU."

Problems and Concerns

- assessment, both process and application, remains a concern. A joint committee of GEC and University Assessment Committee members met twice; syllabus analysis was funded; consultant Peter Ewells held meetings on campus in October
- U2 policy is still under consideration, with some significant opposition
- feedback mechanisms for the Triennial Review; the GEC needs to include the prior review's analysis/recommendations when requesting documents for the current review

Reasons for approval/denial of petitions of exception:

<u>Approved</u>		<u>Denied</u>	
adviser error	3	more than 1 cr.	5
1 credit waived	9	course not appropriate	8
dept. faculty recommended	6	coursework did	
GEC evaluation/course content	4	not transfer	<u>3</u>
transfer student compromise	6		16
upper-level coursework in area	4		
miscellaneous	<u>1</u>		
	33		