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## General Education Committee

### Annual Report

2000-2001

#### Membership

##### Faculty

Judith Hovey (Nursing), Madelyn Kissock (Linguistics), Jude Nixon (English), Robby Stewart, chair (Psychology), Ron Tracy (Economics), Kathryn Wagner (Theatre)

##### Ex-officio

Susan Awbrey (Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education), Steve Shablin (Registrar), James Woolcock (Advising Steering Committee)

##### Student Representative

Ruth Calahong

#### Meetings

The General Education Committee (GEC) met 6 times during the Fall 2000 semester (once via email) and 7 times during the Winter 2001 semester. During the Spring 2001 session the committee corresponded via email and was able to complete its business without a face-to-face meeting. (Agenda and minutes of scheduled meetings are attached).

The GEC work is outlined in its charge from the Senate:

To recommend to the Senate general policies and requirements for undergraduate education, to function as a curriculum committee for a university-wide program of general education, and to respond to petitions of exception relating to the program, in accordance with Senate authorizations, to communicate through regular exchange the minutes with the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction, and to provide information on petitions of exception regarding General Education to the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction for preparation of a university annual report on petitions of exception.

Early in the 2000-2001 academic year the GEC chair met with the Advising Steering Committee to discuss general petition procedures and to set a foundation for efficient inter-committee interactions. The question of the perceived inequality of having General Education requirements for U2 students arose and was brought back to the GEC. Our discussions concluded with an agreement that this issue should be considered by the Second Task Force that will be formed to consider the implementation of the plans developed by the First General Education Task force.

The GEC asked the Senate to modify the official membership of the committee to read "six faculty, one student; and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, a representative from the Advising Steering Committee and the Registrar or designee, as ex-officio and non-voting members." We were informed on October 31, 2000 that this change was accepted by the Senate Steering committee and Pat Bennett, chair of ASC, was asked to identify a member of his committee to serve as a liaison to the GEC. He selected James Woolcock and he joined our ranks in January, 2001.

#### New Courses & Course Revisions

LIN 180, Linguistic Analysis, was approved for the Mathematics, Logic and Computer Science area, effective January 1, 2001.

LIN 182, Language and the Brain, was approved for the Natural Science and Technology area, effective January 1, 2001.

The current GEC continued the discussions initiated by our predecessors during the 1999-2000 Triennial Review of CSE 125. Professors Sethi and Wagner presented a description of the changes being made to this course at the October 13, 2000 meeting. The GEC had expected that these changes would be in place at the start of the Fall 2000 semester. Committee discussions continued at the October 27 meeting with a set of very specific recommendations being made. (See minutes for details). At our December 1 meeting Professor Sethi presented a summary of the revisions he and his department made to the course. Discussion indicated that the committee was satisfied with the revisions and that we were unanimous in agreeing that the revision satisfied the concerns raised by the 1999-2000 Triennial Review committee.

#### Petitions of Exception for the General Education Requirements

The GEC reviewed 50 petitions of exception for general education requirements, approving 33, denying 17:

**Approved**

advisor error 4  
 1 credit waived 3  
 substitute coursework 22  
 distance learning/remote site 0  
 upper-level coursework completed 4  
 TOTAL 33

**Denied**

petition sought more than 1 credit waiver 0  
 claim of advisor error not documented 5  
 course not appropriate 9  
 life experiences insufficient 3  
 TOTAL 17

**Triennial Review**

During the 2000-2001 academic year courses in the areas of Arts and Literature were examined and discussed by committee members. Results of the review were communicated to the chairs of the appropriate departments (copies attached). For the review, the faculty teaching each course were asked to provide syllabi and course materials and to respond to an "instructor's questionnaire" discussing how the course, for example "provides an understanding of how people express through the arts their experience with the world." The department chair was asked to complete a statistical questionnaire about the frequency of offering and enrollments. Copies of the guidelines and questionnaires are attached.

The results of the triennial review by field category are as follows:

Arts

Retain on the list: AH 100, AH 101, AH 104, CIN 150, DAN 173, DAN 175, MUS 100, MUS 200, MUS 236, MUS 320, MUS 338, THA 100, THA 301, THA 302

Delete from the list: none

Literature

Retain on the list: ENG 100, ENG 105, ENG 111, ENG 112, ENG 224, ENG 241, ENG 303, ENG 305, ENG 306, ENG 312, LIT 100, LIT 181, LIT 182

Delete from the list: none

**Problems and Concerns**

Assessment. The assessment of student outcomes for General Education has been a problematic issue for a number of years. Given the current articulation of the purposes and goals of assessment and the renovation of General Education itself the GEC committee did not take any actions in this domain. We are certain that new assessment plans will be developed once the recommendations of the first and second General Education Task Forces are considered and moved through governance.

New Courses. As in the previous year, the GEC actively discouraged new course proposals and encouraged departments and faculty to wait until curricular changes proposed by the task forces are moved through governance.

## Summary of Accomplishments

- regular triennial review of courses (Arts and Literature). Recommendation to retain all 27 courses currently on the list
- review of two new courses submitted for consideration during the 1999-2000 academic year; one accepted for Language area, one for Natural Science
- review of one course revision identified during the triennial review initiated in the 1999-2000 academic year; revision accepted
- examination of/decision on 50 petitions of exception for General Education field categories
- extension of committee membership to include ex-officio member from Advising Steering Committee

Submitted by Robby Stewart, Chair

**Executive Summary of Annual Report 2000-2001****Membership:**

Faculty: Judith Hovey (Nursing), Madelyn Kissock (Linguistics), Jude Nixon (English), Robby Stewart, chair (Psychology), Ron Tracy (Economics), Kathryn Wagner (Theatre)

Ex-officio: Susan Awbrey (Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education), Steve Shablin (Registrar), James Woolcock (Advising Steering Committee)

Student Representative: Ruth Calahong

**Meetings**: The General Education Committee (GEC) met 6 times during the Fall 2000 semester (once via email) and 7 times during the Winter 2001 semester. During the Spring 2001 session the committee corresponded via email and was able to complete its

business without a face-to-face meeting.

#### New Courses & Course Revisions:

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**Petitions of Exception for the General Education Requirements:** The GEC reviewed 50 petitions of exception for general education requirements, approving 33, denying 17.

**Triennial Review:** During the 2000-2001 academic year courses in the areas of Arts and Literature were examined and discussed by committee members. All courses were retained.

#### Problems and Concerns:

- **Assessment.** Given the current articulation of the purposes and goals of assessment and the renovation of General Education the GEC committee did not take any actions in this domain. We are certain that new assessment plans will be developed once the recommendations of the first and second General Education Task Forces are considered and moved through governance.
- **New Courses.** As in the previous year, the GEC actively discouraged new course proposals and encouraged departments and faculty to wait until curricular changes proposed by the task forces are moved through governance.



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