

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (GEC) REPORT 2003-2004 Academic Year

The GEC and the Boards have continued the work began in 2001 to implement the revised General Education requirement for undergraduates. The Committee met weekly to discuss and adopt policies and procedures to support the work of the Boards and to facilitate the implementation of General Education. The points below highlight the activities of the GEC for the past year.

General Education Course Approvals:

Course proposals for Diversification, Foundations and Focus course were solicited from faculty, reviewed and recommended by the Boards, and approved by the GEC. The GEC approved designations for:

Diversification (5-year designation)

- 14 existing courses modified
- 14 courses added
- 1872 Total diversification courses sections offered

Foundations (5-year designation)

- 2 courses added
- 39 Total foundations courses offered

Focus (2-year designation)

- 97 E courses approved or renewed
- 89 H courses approved or renewed
- 88 O courses approved or renewed
- 671 W courses approved or renewed
- 1324 Total focus course sections offered

The GEC and Boards also participated in the review of a number of H focus courses and diversification courses from the UH community colleges.

The GEC may extend the Focus course approval period from 2-years to 3-years.

GEC involvement in UH System Articulation:

The GEC was actively involved in articulation issues. Starting with the October 2003 meeting hosted by VPAA McClain the GEC and its Chair have held numerous meeting with VPAA McClain, Chancellor Englert, the OVCAA, the SEC and faculty groups from both Mānoa and the UH System. The GEC submitted a resolution to the Mānoa Faculty Senate requesting that the rights of the receiving campus be observed in these articulation proposals. In addition, the GEC held a workshop in December 2003 that proposed the use of the WI Model for future articulation policy.

As a result of these efforts Vice Chancellor Karl Kim sent a memo to VPAA McClain on March 11, 2004 encouraging campuses to adopt Mānoa Hallmarks for Foundations courses and to enter into

discussions to develop approved programs for articulation. Honolulu CC (HCC) accepted this offer and other campuses expressed interest. Following up on this, the UHM Foundations Board held two workshops to explain the approval process they use to determine whether foundations course proposals meet the Hallmark requirement.

Following the second workshop, which was hosted by Jim Nishimoto from McClain's office and was attended by a large group from Mānoa and the CCs, Nishimoto moderated a discussion over system articulation proposals. Shortly thereafter he circulated a draft, for discussion purposes, of a memorandum of agreement between the HCC and UHM Foundations Boards. As of our last meeting this draft document is still under discussion and represents a concern for the GEC over its content, consultation process involved and the proper authority for its implementation. The GEC met with IVCAA Kim and Chancellor Englert individually in its last two meetings to discuss this proposal and the articulation process in general.

Despite concern for this particular proposal the process on the whole seems greatly improved from the somewhat contentious discussions that took place during the October 2003 meeting. But time will tell whether this can worked out.

We also met earlier with incoming VCAA Smatresk over articulation and other general education matters.

GEC decision on E&O Focus Hallmarks:

The 2002 GEC decision to require upper-division courses for its E&O Focus courses was the subject of discussion throughout the year. We added an extensive discussion of the issue to the gened website in October 2003.

During our November 2003 meeting with VPAA McClain he questioned whether we acted properly and with the necessary consultation. He finally accepted our decision process in testimony before the BOR in April 2004 and then in a memo to the Chancellors and Chief Academic Officers on April 30, 2004.

The Chair and other members of the GEC also testified before the BOR during that April meeting on the issues raised by the E&O decision and other general education issues.

GEC involvement in assessment issues:

The third area in which the GEC devotes a large amount of its time is the continuing effort to implement a strategy for assessing student learning outcomes in the general education program.

The Focus and Foundations Boards were encouraged to include some sort of assessment methods in their renewal application process. As a result, new renewal forms were developed and put into use this year.

In addition, members of the GEC and its Chair attended a WASC sponsored assessment workshop held at the East West Center during spring break. This conference was attended by a large number of universities and community colleges from Hawaii, California and other Pacific rim locations.

As a result of that conference, the GEC team developed a pilot assessment proposal for diversification courses that it hopes to run sometime in the next two years. This proposal will require the logistical and financial support the OVCAA.

GEO support of the GEC:

As always the GEC is indebted to the GEO for the support of its activities. They simply do too many things for us to try and list but below are some particularly important examples.

This year the GEO compiled a manual to explain the committee's work to new members of the committee.

They provided support to our two workshops: our orientation meeting in August 2003 which included welcoming remarks from VPAA McClain and our articulation workshop in December 2003 that was mentioned above.

Their years of experience with the WI Model were indispensable in our articulation workshop and they wrote the draft proposal for us that helped us move that discussion forward.

In addition to maintaining their own general education website they maintained a special member's only website for the GEC. This website includes documents, web links, calendar deadlines, meeting minutes and agendas; all necessary to efficient functioning of the committee. Importantly, they added a special addition to their website that detailed the consultation process and pedagogical justification that the GEC used and the Boards use in their upper-division hallmark requirement for E&O Focus courses.

Annual report submitted May 5, 2004 to the Faculty Senate by David Stegenga, GEC Chair.