

General Education Committee Report  
AY 2005-2006  
Submitted by Patricia Fryer, Chair

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The GEC thanks the members of the Foundations and Focus Boards for the time and effort that they have dedicated to helping enrich the undergraduate education experience at UH Mānoa. Last year's plea for more faculty to serve on the Boards was responded to by the faculty with generosity and a spirit of cooperation that has proved most effective.

This academic year the GEC began preparations for the review of all courses with Diversification designation that are coming up for renewal. Because there are so many courses to be considered, the review will have to be staggered. The GEC recognizes that each department has the most knowledge of its own curriculum. It will therefore request help from the departments in carefully reviewing the current designation for each of their courses. The process will begin next semester (Fall 2006). An information packet with Diversification eligibility criteria, Hallmarks, and explanatory notes was authored by the GEC this year and the draft will be reviewed by a group of department chairs over the next few weeks. The final packet will be sent to all departments that offer Diversification courses at the beginning of the Fall semester to aid them in the evaluation of their Diversification course designations. This packet will include recommendations to assist the departments in their deliberations regarding renewals, changes in designations and new applications.

In addition, the GEC has been engaged in efforts to simplify the General Education procedures. These include the following:

- efforts to foster a more transparent on-line mechanism by which both students and faculty can review course-designation attributes (Star has had this in place as of April, 2006);
- GEC approval of Focus designations recommended for course-based proposals (in addition to "instructor only" designations);
- Discussions with the Boards toward standardizing mechanisms for monitoring compliance with meeting the hallmarks;
- a review of the "Wildcard" option;
- a more uniform set of criteria for approval of designations;
- multi-campus approaches for Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific designations;
- standardization of sunset dates for Foundations and Diversification designations; and
- mechanisms by which articulation of courses and effective rapid transmission of information regarding course status is achieved throughout the UH system;

These efforts toward simplifying General Education processes will be continued over the summer with an *ad hoc* subcommittee.

This report and all board reports can be found at <http://www.hawaii.edu/gened/gec/annualreports.htm>.