

General Education Committee Report

AY 2006-2007

Submitted by Helen Baroni, Chair

Committee members:

Cristina Baccilega (V. Chair)

Helen Baroni (Chair)

Richard Bigus

John Engel

Jon Goss

Susan Johnson

Megumi Taniguchi

George Wong

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. The total number of courses approved for Foundations, and Focus designations are as follows:

Foundations:

UHM courses approved	3
CC courses approved	3
courses renewed	16
Total number of approved UHM Foundations courses	37

Focus:

E sections approved or renewed	154
H sections approved or renewed	121
O sections approved or renewed	216
W sections approved or renewed	879
Total Focus course sections offered	1370

The GEC oversees Diversification courses.

Diversification:

existing courses modified	12
courses added	22
courses renewed	1020
Total Diversification courses sections offered	2607

The primary goal of the Committee this year has been to assess General Education procedures and simplify when appropriate. Relevant actions include the following:

- Removal of the General Education Foundations Global and Multicultural Perspectives "exclusionary rule" (required Senate action)
- Changed the Wild Card option to a Focus Exemption and redrafted the forms

- and other materials for clarity (required Senate action)
- Changed the method for appointing new members to the GEC and subsidiary boards (required Senate action)
 - Lengthened the Focus approval period to 5 years for renewals
 - Rationalized the renewal periods for classes with multiple functions
 - Clarified the submission requirements for application for multiple Focus designations for a class
 - Delegated approval authority to Focus boards for most class-based applications

The GEC mandate requires review of all courses with Diversification designation every five years. The review process for approximately one half of the UHM courses was completed this academic year. The remainder will be reviewed next year. In addition, the GEC drafted recommendations for system renewal of Diversification classes.

The GEC reviewed drafts of the WASC Report in Fall 2006 and submitted substantive changes to the Office of the VCAA, many of which were eventually adopted.

The GEC reviewed the TIM proposal for the TIM in Singapore Plan and drafted a written response that was sent to TIM and the SEC.

The GEC provided support for the Senate Assessment Task Force in its preparation of the report and in its presentation to the Congress and Senate.

The GEC approved four substantive corrections to the General Education Policies and Practices handbook that will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate for approval in Fall 2007:

- Modification to the section related to Hawaiian and Second Language requirements to reflect current practice and policies
- Clarification of the language regarding student representation of the GEC and subsidiary boards
- Deletion of the section on GEC involvement in faculty mentoring
- Clarification in sections related to College and Major requirements that these areas do not fall under the purview of the GEC