

**General Education Committee
2007-08 Annual Report
Submitted by Jane Schoonmaker, Chair**

The following is a list of accomplishments, decisions made, and issues addressed.

- A. The following modifications to the *UH Mānoa General Education Requirements* document were presented to the Faculty Senate for action and were passed on September 19, 2007:
 - Modification to the section related to Hawaiian and Second Language requirements
 - Clarification of the language regarding student representation on the GEC and boards
 - Deletion of the section on GES involvement in faculty mentoring
 - Clarification that college and major requirements do not fall under the purview of GECNote: these modifications were drafted last academic year by the GEC.
- B. The GEC provided feedback to the SEC on the assessment instrument *Collegiate Learning Assessment*.
- C. A deadline policy was established for changes to Focus section designations after the *Schedule of Classes* had been printed.
- D. The GEC participated in ongoing discussions of Gen Ed assessment. An “assessment preamble” was developed in consultation with the boards and was passed on to the SEC and OVCAA for their approval/information. Student Learning Outcomes for the Foundations, Oral Communication, and Contemporary Ethical Issues areas were developed at a fall assessment workshop, reviewed by the GEC, and sent to the appropriate boards for input. Some Boards are piloting aspects of their assessment plans and rubrics, but all will need support from the UHM Assessment Office to fully implement their plans.
- E. Representatives of the GEC met with WASC Special Visit team member Scott Evenbeck. Discussion focused on mapping of Gen Ed requirements to WASC Core Competencies. The OVCAA was subsequently asked for clarification of the core competency “college level quantitative skills.” To date, no clarification has been received.
- F. Representatives of the GEC met with Chancellor Hinshaw to explain the Gen Ed Program. It was noted that overlap of Gen Ed and college or major requirements can be a source of confusion for students. Subsequent discussions were held to outline possible means of clarification. The UHM advisors working with the Ka‘ie‘ie degree pathway program are creating program advising sheets in which Gen Ed requirements are separated from degree and major requirements.
- G. The GEC discussed implementation of Gen Ed language that states that students should complete their Foundation requirements in their freshman year. The GEC decided to focus initial efforts on the FW requirement. A faculty committee was formed and a proposal developed to 1) eliminate the current backlog of students who have not completed their FW requirement, 2) ensure sufficient seats in FW classes for all incoming freshmen, and 3) establish the FW course as an integral part of the freshman experience. OVCAA approved funding for the first year of the proposal. The success of the first year will be assessed and reported to the GEC and OVCAA next year. The committee will continue to seek funding for

the remaining aspects of the proposal which include a comprehensive mentoring program for freshmen and transformation of FW courses into freshmen-only courses.

- H. The GEC consulted with the OVCAA on ongoing academic advising initiatives.
- I. Difficulties in classification of courses into the A, H, and L Diversification categories prompted GEC consideration of possible changes, including merger, to the three categories. It was decided that the categories should remain as currently defined.
- J. New Foundations Course: WS 176 (FG-B)
- K. Renewals of Foundations and Diversification Courses

Foundations Renewals

- HIST 161A (FG)
- HIST 162A (FG)
- MATH 215/215A (FS)
- MATH 241/251A (FS)
- AMST 150 (FG-B)

Diversification Renewals

- F07 - Diversification subcommittee reviewed 398 courses in Natural Sciences, Nursing, SOEST, and TAHR.
- S08 – Diversification subcommittee reviewed 440 courses in Social Sciences, Shidler, and campus-wide.