

I. GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The General Education Committee (GEC) is a Standing Committee of the UHM Faculty Senate that will develop policies and procedures for implementing and monitoring General Education at UHM, and undertake regular assessment of its educational effectiveness. The GEC and faculty Boards will include faculty from diverse backgrounds, and undergraduate student representatives appointed by student government.

Personnel: The GEC will be composed of nine (9) members, eight of whom will be recommended by the Committee on Faculty Service and appointed by the Mānoa Faculty Senate; the ninth will be a student member appointed by the Associated Students of University of Hawai'i. Two Senators will be appointed for two years, with staggered terms. They will be the Chair and Vice-chair of the committee, with the first Chair to serve initially for only one year. In general, the Vice-chair is expected to become the chair in the second year. The student member will serve for one year. The other six members will serve three years, initially staggered two each for one, two, and three years, in order to provide continuity from year to year.

Members of the GEC will serve their terms from July 1 through June 30 of each academic year, with the first GEC members to serve longer, from their initial appointment until June 30 of the appropriate year for their term of service. The members of the GEC will be drawn from as broad a representation of the entire Mānoa community as possible. The General Education Committee will select members as non-voting liaisons to each of the Boards. These liaisons will not be viewed as representatives of those Boards.

Members of the GEC will not be representatives of any one constituency at the University of Hawaii, neither acting on behalf of any interest group nor serving any particular disciplinary allegiance. Rather, they should regard their duties as broadly representative of the general education community as a whole.

The nine voting members will be as follows:

1. Chair, Senator
2. Vice-chair, Senator
3. liaison to the Foundations Board
4. liaison to the Contemporary Ethical Issues (ETH) Board
5. liaison to the Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific (HAP) Board
6. liaison to the Oral Communications (OC) Board
7. liaison to the Writing Intensive (WI) Board
8. liaison from Advising (a Faculty Specialist advisor)
9. student member, appointed by ASUH

Ex officio, non-voting for logistical and administrative support and advice:

10. Dean of Undergraduate Affairs
11. Director of Admissions and Records

Duties: The main task of the GEC will be to oversee the development of the general education curriculum through evaluation and assessment. This entails the following duties:

- 1) evaluating and approving courses that meet the hallmarks, guidelines, and other criteria, of Foundations and Focus courses, as recommended by the Boards;
- 2) deleting courses that no longer meet such criteria, following recommendations by the Boards;
- 3) encouraging the creation of new course proposals and ensuring that adequate courses are offered for students to meet requirements in a timely fashion;
- 4) assessing the general education program through periodic review of learning outcomes;
- 5) determining transferability and assignment of credit for courses from other parts of the UH system, through communication and liaison with other campuses, the Community Colleges, and system-wide committees such as the University Committee on Articulation; and
- 6) coordinating the actions and policies of the GEC with the various UHM colleges and their own curriculum committees.

Evaluation and approval of courses: The individual Boards will handle the evaluation of courses in their areas (Foundations, CEI, HAP, OC, WI, as described in Sections II and III). In the special purview of the GEC will be the approval of new and existing courses recommended by these Boards. In addition, the GEC will review and approve the Diversification courses and the procedures for satisfying the language requirement, and oversee the Wild Card option. The GEC will develop standardized procedures for approval and review of recommended courses.

In seeking exemption for their undergraduates from the Hawaiian or second language graduation requirement, individual colleges and schools at Mānoa should consult with the GEC for review and recommendations.

Assessment: The GEC will evaluate the General Education Requirements on a periodic basis to ensure that student needs are being met. A recommended outline of procedures is presented in Appendix A.