UHM Faculty Senate General Education Committee (GEC)  
2012-2013  
Fall Report


1. Course Proposal Review
The General Education Committee (GEC) reviews course proposals for General Education designations as follows:

- Foundations designations, in all instances. When the Foundations Board (F Board) approves a proposal, it is forwarded to the GEC for a second review.
- Multiple Focus (3 or more) designations. When an instructor requests 3 or more Focus designations, and the respective Focus Boards approve their Focus designations, the full proposal is forwarded to the GEC for an overall review. (Single and dual Focus designations, if approved by the respective Focus Boards, are not reviewed by the GEC.)
- Course-based Focus designations. When a department requests that all sections of a course be designated with any combination of Focus designations (single, dual or more), and the respective Focus Boards approve their Focus designations, the proposal or full proposal is forwarded to the GEC for a second and overall review.
- Focus exemption requests (student-submitted).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposals reviewed</th>
<th>Recommended or approved</th>
<th>Pending, withdrawn, or denied</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ 1 revision</td>
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<td>Multiple Focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Based Focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Focus Exemption</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>+ 1 revision</td>
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**Foundations** – One of the proposals reviewed by the GEC was a revision of a proposal previously denied approval. The revised proposal was approved. The only other notable case amongst the GEC's reviews was a vote against renewal for AMST 150 for an FG (Global and Multicultural Perspectives) designation. This would have been the second FG renewal for AMST 150. While no major revisions to the course had been made, the syllabi submitted were perceived by the GEC as showing "course drift," where minor changes over time cause the course to no longer fully address the Foundations hallmarks. Due to the lack of time available to request
revisions that could have addressed the GEC's concerns, the course proposal was denied approval.

**Multiple Focus** – All proposals were approved.

**Course-Based Focus** – All proposals were approved.

**Focus Exemption** – The GEC received five applications for exemptions from various Focus requirements from students, for both course-based and non-course-based educational experiences. Four of the applications were approved. One was denied. The student whose application was denied asked to submit a revised application; and the revised application was approved.

2. Other Issues

In the course of its routine work, the following issues came to the GEC's attention.

**Focus exemptions fulfilling upper division requirements**

The General Education Office (GEO) was asked if an approved Focus exemption could be used to fulfill an upper division requirement. Some background on the Focus exemption: Undergraduate students may apply for exemption from one Focus requirement if they have had a college-level extraordinary educational experience that falls outside of normal University coursework and also meets appropriate Focus hallmarks. The exemption may be based on a course-based or non-course-based experience.

In consultation with the GEO, the GEC determined that this is outside of the GEC's purview. The GEC and the General Education Boards determine whether courses fulfill designation requirements based on General Education hallmarks. Designation of a course as being upper or lower division is done at the departmental and college level. Thus, questions about upper and lower division designations remain the responsibility of the department or college.

**Liaison role**

Members of the GEC serve as liaisons to the various General Education Boards. The GEC clarified the role of the liaisons and the procedures for determining liaison assignments.

**Conditional renewal period for HAP Focus courses**

The Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Issues (HAP) Board notified the GEC that it would be proposing a conditional renewal period for HAP designations. The GEC asked the HAP Board to bring this to the General Education Advisory Board in the Spring.

3. Manoa Faculty Senate Charges to the GEC

**Foundations, Symbolic Reasoning (FS)**

SEC charge: Review the Foundational-Symbolic Reasoning Requirement including the alternatives of emphasizing quantitative skills v. symbolic reasoning.

The GEC invited the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Reed Dasenbrock to one of its October meetings to discuss the issue from administrative perspective. The GEC member with the strongest experience with the history of the FS issue was away until November. Upon his return, the GEC reviewed the history of FS.
**Information Literacy**

SEC charge: Consider establishing a working group to review how information literacy is being taught across the curriculum. Review as a subset of general education elements the five pillars that WASC has been considering that require us to establish and demonstrate proficiency in written communication, oral communication, quantitative skills, critical thinking, information literacy.

A working group was convened. Members include:

Christine Beaule, Latin American Studies  
Dave Brier, Library Services  
Yao Hill, Manoa Assessment Office  
Wayne Iwaoka, Food Science  
Dore Minatodani, Library Services (and General Education Committee)  
Colin Moore, Political Science  
Diane Nahl, Library and Information Science  
Sarita Rai, Study Abroad Center (and General Education Committee)  
Richard Rath, History  
Kauwela Valeho-Novikoff, Kamakakuokalani

**High DFWI Courses**

SEC charge: Carryover issue. Co-assigned to Committee on Academic Policy and Planning, Manoa Assessment Committee and GEC.

The inter-committee working group was convened.