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# General Education Reform: A UH Systemwide Initiative

March 3, 2021

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs



# History

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- UH Mānoa developed a new Gen Ed core during the late 1990s
- Over time and after about 25 years, all ten campuses had adopted the Mānoa core
- Concerns have arisen with dated content and structures
- Challenges with transfer and articulation arise when any campus makes a change that impacts Gen Ed



# Current Context

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- An external review of Mānoa's Gen Ed program in 2018 provided extensive recommendations for curriculum, governance and operations
- Nationally many institutions are undergoing or have recently completed Gen Ed reform, with innovations and processes shared across higher education
- Mānoa had initiated a project, but as our Gen Ed curriculum impacts all campuses and students, its reform should be a systemwide initiative
- Faculty leadership at Mānoa and systemwide are in support



# Plan for Collaborative Reform: A Summer Institute

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- Provide a Clear Charge
- Open call for faculty to participate from all campuses
- Selection of top faculty candidates from each campus by the ten faculty senates
- Final selection from among campus candidates to ensure diversity of expertise, background and perspectives
- Separate systemwide open call for three undergraduate students to participate, with one student each from: UHM, UHH or UHWO, CC
- Participants will constitute the UH General Education Curriculum Design Team



# The Summer Institute

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- UH General Education Curriculum Design Team will gather (physically and/or virtually) in July for an intensive 4-week session
- Organized by the OVPAS (fka OVPAPP) with the Director of the UHM General Education Office, others TBD
- Will draw on experts across the system and from outside UH where needed
- Topics will include a range of competencies included and not included in our current Gen Ed (e.g. civic and community engagement, critical thinking, information literacy, teamwork)
- Design Team to provide a proposed new Gen Ed curriculum by end of summer
- Extensive consultation and revision across all campuses throughout AY 2021-2022
- Aspirational goal: Begin implementation in Fall 2022



# Other Work and Opportunities

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- RP 5.213 on General Education
  - Defines Gen Ed as a campus matter and requires BOR approval of campus Gen Ed requirements and significant changes
  - Needs to be updated for this new systemwide approach
- Need to address procedural questions around consultation next academic year
- Need to establish a new systemwide approach to maintaining and updating Gen Ed
- ***Opportunities to develop shared content and online curriculum that can be used by all campuses and for early college – in support of and modeling what we are doing in UH Post-Pandemic Planning***