

General Education Committee Report

Academic Year 2018-2019

We welcomed a new staff assistant, Lilliana Sanchez, whose efforts, along with those of Tracey Haney, were invaluable in ensuring the smooth functioning of the GEC.

This was the first year that the General Education Committee convened under its new charge. Among other changes, this charge lowered the number of committee members to nine, with one faculty member from each of the academic colleges and the library, two faculty appointed by the senate, and one student representative. Our ex-officio, non-voting members include the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, the campus Articulation Officer, and a representative from University Advising.

GEC would like to use this opportunity to urge every college to elect a reliable and invested representative to GEC, not only because it is in every college's best interest to be heard in this forum, but also because matters of potential import to the university are determined by GEC. This year we had no student representative, no representative from one college, and another representative who attended only sporadically. That left many decisions to a smaller group of members than the charge outlines. If this situation persists, the senate might consider altering the GE charge in some way, perhaps preventing GEC from convening until every college has a representative elected and/or empowering the GE chair, in consultation with the senate chair, to replace members who do not attend faithfully.

Despite our small membership, GEC conducted its usual business. We approved 19 new courses: four in lower division Arts and Letters (Area C), one in the lower division Social Sciences (Area D), nine in the upper division Humanities (Area F1), one to upper division Science, Math, and Technology (Area F2), and four in upper division Social and Behavioral Sciences (Area F3). Some departments were updating their course titles and/or numbers to better reflect current scholarship or utilization, some were requesting GE status for existing courses, while others sought GE inclusion for entirely new courses. Ultimately, each approved course is not only appropriate in terms of content and rigor, but also timely, fresh, and socially relevant to our students.

GEC also moved forward with some changes to our processes. We continue working to make the way the committee evaluates proposals more clear to potential proposers. We created documents that explain the way the CSU as a system defines and prescribes each area and sub-area course content. We also created a sample grid that shows how proposers can make it clear that their course aligns with both the CSU and our current campus GE outcomes guidelines. We should be able to complete that work in the next Academic Year and see it merged into ongoing revisions being made to the campus curriculum review process.

GE is also working with Director of Assessment Matt Mutchler, who is helping us devise a plan for meaningful assessment of the GE Program. Additionally, GEC both consulted on this spring's Student Success Survey to gain insight into student perceptions of GE and participated in the recent GE Faculty Town Hall. To help complete these important revisions to GE, some of us will apply to the GE Working Group being convened by Dean of Undergraduate Studies Kim Costino. That group's work includes recommendations both for the integration of the former Area G principles and for determining effective assessment processes to continuously improve the GE program for our students.

At the last meeting of the year, the committee elected Sam Russo (Political Science) and Pat Kalayjian (IDS) to co-chair GEC in AY 2019-2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Kalayjian, Chair

General Education Committee

GEC voting membership:

Pat Kalayjian, chair: Senate appointee

John Wilkins: Senate appointee

Sam Russo: CNBS

David Hoopes: CBAPP

Angela Macias: COE

Carolyn Caffrey Gardner: Library

Scott Cheatham: CHHSN

No student representative or representative from CAH

Courses approved in AY 2018-2019:

Area C

- JPN 110 and
- JPN 111, Introduction to Japanese 1 and 2
- ENG 150, Languages of the World
- ENG 271, Introduction to Creative Writing

Area D

- WMS 250, Foundations in Women's Studies

Area F1

- APP 314, Asian Americans and the Media
- APP 339, Asian Diaspora and Transnational Asians Religions
- APP 343, Asian Film and Literature
- ENG 308, Critical Approaches to Children's Literature
- HIS 375, Popular Cultures in History
- HUM 310, Health Humanities
- HUM 310, Mind/Brain and the Arts
- MUS 302, African American Music
- WMS 314, Feminism in Film

Area F2

- IDS 310, Global Climate Change

Area F3

- APP 318, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Lao Americans: Culture, History, and Identity
- APP 335, Asian Pacific Culinary Culture
- APP 350, Asian Gender and Identity
- IDS 304, Issues in Global Studies