



To:	Robert Werling, Chair, University Educational Policy Committee (UEPC) 2019-2020
From:	Christopher Turner, Chair, General Education Subcommittee
Date:	May 6, 2020
RE:	Annual Report of the GE Subcommittee 2019-2020

A. Membership

GE Membership Fall 2019 & Spring 2020

Christopher Turner, (1) Library/At Large
Anysia Mayer, (1) COEKSW
Ellen Bell, (2) CAHSS
Jenny (Jingyun) Li, (2) CBA
Mechelle Perea-Ryan, (2) COS
Stuart Wooley, Interim Faculty Director of GE, Ex-Officio

B. Course Approvals

GE Sub reviewed and approved seven courses under the current GE Goals. In addition to the approved courses listed below, the GE Sub also reviewed three additional courses (CHEM 3060, GEOG 3400, and GEOG 4750) that are pending with requested revisions.

- ETHS 3950
- KINS 4540
- ENGL 2010
- MBIO 3000
- GEND 2500
- THEA 1500
- CJ 4735

C. APR Approvals (Evaluating the GE Portion)

GE Sub reviewed eleven APR (GE Portion) submissions. After providing feedback and requesting revisions, seven of the submissions (Philosophy, History, English, Geography, Health Science, Communications, and Modern Languages) were approved and several of the submissions (Agriculture, Applied Leadership, Economics, and Special Major) are pending with requested revisions.



D. GE Recertification

In an effort to keep GE courses current and updated, the Subcommittee undertook a onetime batch recertification so that moving forward GE courses will be reviewed on the seven-year APR cycle. This time-consuming endeavor required careful review of hundreds of syllabi across many programs. We had to ensure that each and every GE syllabus had correct GE goals and outcomes, proper alignment with GE Areas, and included assignments mapped to the outcomes. A number of GE recertification packets needed revisions. The subcommittee therefore delegated Ellen Bell as GE recertification liaison and her tireless efforts reviewing documents and communicating the subcommittee's concerns and suggestions to various programs were invaluable. Stuart Wooley (ex-officio member) also provided essential guidance to the subcommittee and was immensely helpful in ensuring that we successfully met this objective. This was a real team effort and the considerable workload was divided up so that we could efficiently complete the necessary reviews. I would like to simply note here how well everyone worked together to finish this extraordinary task! We recertified hundreds of GE courses and should now be in a position to sync future GE recertification with the 7-year APR review.

F. Policies

GE Sub met with Steven Filling in September 2019 to discuss the implementation of an Ethnic Studies System Requirement. In particular, Professor Filling wanted our committee to consider the tradeoff in having the ethnic studies requirement as a stand-alone graduation requirement versus as a required GE overlay [e.g., separately, within the major, or upper- or lower-division GE or parts of both]. He also wanted our input regarding which best practices should be encouraged for campuses to adopt in their course evaluation and approval processes for meeting the learning outcomes specific to ethnic studies in order to maximize consistency and integrity of the requirement. GE Sub responded to Filling's queries with substantive replies and suggestions to these concerns. In addition, GE Sub met with Mark Thompson in Fall 2019 to discuss Information Literacy and how to promote it as an outcome in GE courses. GE Sub pointed out that the current GE anchor outcome 1.5 seems to fit information literacy well, and that the issue seems to be one of coordinating faculty efforts in this regard rather than establishing a new GE goal, outcome, or area.

G. Procedure

GE Sub created instructions and reference material for the GE recertification process, with the help of administrative staff. This material was conveyed to programs that were recertifying GE packets with the subcommittee in an effort to ensure quality and expedite the process.



H. On-Going

GE Sub continues to work reviewing APRs and hopes to be able to approve a few more at our last meeting in mid-May.

GE Sub wishes to acknowledge and thank Whitney Placido, Recording Secretary for GE Sub, for the considerable time and effort she devotes to our work.