

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
AY 2004 - 05**

Date: June 1, 2005  
 To: Academic Senate  
 From: Paul Levesque, Chair  
 GE Committee, 2004-2005  
 Re: **Annual Report, General Education Committee, 2004-2005**

**I. LIST OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Paul Levesque, Chair (Humanities)  
 John Bock, (Social Sciences)  
 Nancy Fitch (Social Sciences)  
 Dorota Huizinga (ECS)  
 Pat Szeszulski (CHHD)  
 Gerald Gannon (NSM)  
 Christina Smith (ARTS)  
 Teddy Bourgeois (Student, fall 2004)  
 Mark Lopez (Student, spring 2005)  
 Sylvia Alva (ex officio)  
 Claire Palmerino (ex officio)  
 Robert Emry (Academic Senate ex liaison)

**II. COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

**1.0 General Overview.** The Committee was very productive, holding a total of fifteen meetings during the year (seven in the fall and eight in the spring). In addition, the three subcommittees met about the same number of times. The ad hoc committee on assessment met periodically.

**2.0 Review of New Course Proposals & Existing Courses Seeking GE Status.** The following new courses were reviewed and recommended to the Academic Senate by the GE Committee for inclusion in the GE Program:

Fall 2004

<u>HUSR/COUN</u> 350	Leadership Skills and Personal Development (3) GE IV
HUM 351	Life & Culture in Italy & Modern Europe (3) GE III.B.3 & V
<u>ANTH/WMST</u> 316	Anthropology of Sex and Gender (3) GE IV. & V
GEOL 110T	Topics in Earth Science (4) GE II.A.2.b

## Spring 2005

ECON 336 Economies of the Middle East (3) GE III.C.2  
 MLNG 304 Japanese Culture and Society: Anime (3) GE III.B.3

Additionally, the following *existing* courses were reviewed and recommended to the Academic Senate by the GE Committee for inclusion in the GE Program:

## Spring 2005

EDEL 325 Cultural Pluralism in Elementary Schools (3) GE III.C.2 & V  
 HESC 358 Contemporary Issues in Children's Health (3) GE IV  
 KNES 386 Movement and the Child (3) GE IV

The following New Course Proposals were not voted on and will be carried over to next year for further consideration, pending responses from the respective departments: WMST 330 Women in Leadership; MLNG 305T Global Issues in World Cinema; MLNG 308 German-speaking Culture through Cinema & Literature; MUS 300 Music of the Beatles; ANTH 319 Environmental Anthropology; COUN 375 Counseling Skills for Health Professionals; and READ 380 Critical Reading, critical Thinking and Problem Solving fro Lifelong Learning.

Extensive discussion was given to New Course Proposal ASAM/GERO 348 and the Committee recommended not approving this course in its current form; however, the department has the option of resubmitted the course after addressing the requested substantial modifications.

### 3.0 Recertification of Existing GE Courses.

The process of recertification (through the work of three subcommittees) has proven to be a useful vehicle to encourage and support departments and divisions to ensure that GE courses address and met the required GE Learning Goals in the appropriate category.

3.1 The Committee continued its review of carry-over courses from previous years in GE categories III.B.2 "Introduction to the Humanities" and III.B.3 "Implications and Explorations and Participatory Experience in the Arts and Humanities." Progress was made this year (recertifying three courses in this category), but a few English courses remain.

3.2 The Committee continued its review of courses in III.A.2 "Natural Sciences" and III.A.3 "Implications and Explorations in Natural Sciences and Mathematics," recertifying eight courses in this category. Subcommittee C completed review of its courses. Eight courses and three labs continue to be reviewed by subcommittees A & B.

3.3 Review of GE Category II. "Historical and Cultural Foundations" began in October 2004 as scheduled. Four courses have been recertified and four remain.

3.4 Notification has been sent (4/5/05) to departments with courses in GE Category I “Core Competencies” requesting documents for recertification review be sent by October 14, 2005.

**4.0 Ad Hoc GE Assessment Committee.** The ad hoc GE Assessment Committee was unable to present the two documents to the full GE Committee as planned. The topic of “Information Literacy” was discussed and will be revisited next year.

**5.0 Proposals to the Academic Senate.** In addition to the Committee’s recommendations regarding GE new and existing Course Proposals, two recommendations were offered to the Academic Senate for its consideration.

5.1 In April 2005, the GE Committee requested that the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate initiate a discussion on the impact of the three semester second language requirement scheduled to take effect during the fall of 2006 on the opportunities for students to receive a meaningful exposure to the introduction to the humanities in III.B.1. category of General Education. The General Education Committee suggested two possible solutions:

1. To reduce the second language requirement from 3 semesters to 2 as did CSU Sacramento based on their 15 year experience with a second language requirement or
2. To remove all language courses from General Education Category III.B.1.

The Executive Committee “decided that it is premature... to consider any revisions to the policy and will not do so.” The Executive Committee further recognized “that there is an immediate need to create some form of oversight committee and that we will do. It is our understanding that CSUS has few to no exemptions, unlike CSUF, so any comparisons to them become problematical.”

5.2 At its meeting on 5/6/05, the General Education Committee approved the following recommendation to the Academic Senate:

“The GE Committee recommends moving ANTH 101 Introduction to Biological Anthropology from GE Category III.A.3 to GE Category III.A.2.c., with the openness of the GE Committee to receive a proposal from Biology for their students to continue to take Biology 171 or 172 to meet GE Category III.A.2.c. The GE Committee requests that the Executive Committee include this issue as new business and not include this on the consent calendar, in order to allow both those opposed and those in favor to be heard by the full Senate.”

The basis for the GE Committee’s recommendation is its conclusion that this course does meet the learning goals for GE III.A.2.c. as published in UPS 411.201.

In reaching this recommendation, the GE Committee consulted with the Department of Biological Science and the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, receiving position papers **in opposition** to this category change. The GE Committee also consulted with the Department of Anthropology and the College of Humanities

and Social Sciences, receiving position papers **in favor** of this category change. The Academic Senate indicated that it would take up this issue in fall 2005.

5.3 In October 2004, the GE Committee recommended to the Academic Senate that a GE variance be granted to reduce GE requirements for multiple subject Streamlined Teacher Education Program (STEP) students, specifically a variance for world history. The GE Committee met with Tom Klammer and Bill Haddad to consider their misgivings/opposition to the GE variance. This proposal was considered by the full Senate and passed.

**6.0 Other Business.** The GE Committee worked hard to engage in collegial dialogue regarding a variety of topics as outlined below.

6.1 Discussions with the chairs of the College of Arts and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences regarding the advisability of allowing students to use classes offered by their major departments to apply to lower-division GE categories (I, II, III.A.2, III.B.1, III.B.2, and III.C.1). No action taken to date. This topic will be revisited next year.

6.2 Discussions with the Department of Modern Languages regarding its request to double count certain courses for GE and majors within the department. The GE Committee reaffirmed current policy stating, "Courses offered by the department of the student's major may not be used to fulfill the unit requirement of III or IV with the exception of categories offering choices from only one department."

6.3 Discussion with the Department of Modern Languages regarding prerequisites for certain CHIN courses.

6.4 Discussions with the Chair of the Department of History regarding the existing requirement for a student to take both HIST 170A and HIST 170B for credit in GE II.B.1. Both the Chair of History and the GE Committee agreed that the requirement should be dropped. The request was sent to Academic Programs. Effective immediately, students may complete the U.S. History GE requirement with either HIST 170A or 170B.

**7.0 Plans for 2005-2006.** The GE Committee plans to focus on 1) continuing the review and recertification of existing GE courses; 2) review of GE New Course Proposals; 3) review of assessment; 4) consider other matters pertinent to the GE program, including a proposal from the Department of Computer Science for a GE variance of three units for its majors; 5) review all of the rules and policies associated with the GE program.