**Report to SUNY Old Westbury Faculty Senate**

**General Education Committee**

**Academic Year 2013- 2014**

**Meetings:**

During the 2013-2014 academic year, the General Education Committee (GEC) met on these dates:

2013: Sept. 13 (under chairship of L. Barber); Oct. 18, Nov. 8, Dec. 13.

2014: Feb. 21 (postponed from 2/14 because of weather), March 14, April 11, May 9 (joint meeting with the General Education Task Force, called by Provost O’Sullivan).

**Proceedings:**

At the October 2013 meeting of the General Education Committee (GEC), Caroline Sawyer was elected chair, stepping up to replace outgoing chair Llana Barber. At the September 2014 meeting, Amanda Frisken was elected Committee Chair. For the purposes of this report, October 2013 through September 2014 will be referred to as Academic Year 2013-2014.

1. **Approval of Courses for General Education Courses**

During this period GEC approved the following courses for inclusion in campus General Education (GE) domains:

AS 2252 U.S. Social Movements American Experience

AS 2640 Introduction to U.S. Latina/o History Diversity

CP 2600 Environmental Analysis of Long Island Natural Science, with lab

MD 2633 Introduction to Music Composition Creativity/ Arts

ML 2550 Introduction to Hispanism and Hispanic Culture (DD) Major Cultures and

Humanities

PY 2420 Introduction to Mindfulness Social Science

VA 2600 Survey of Southwestern French Art and Culture Creativity/ Arts

**2. Assessment of General Education**

Domain assessment of Western Tradition was done in Summer 2014, based on course materials from Spring 2014. (Report was sent to Chair after her term was up. It is included in file of hard copies of agendas.)

Domain reviews for Basic Communications and American Experience were completed by May 2014, based on materials gathered in Spring 2014.

1. **Bylaws Review**

In mid-March 2014, the GEC chair sent to the Faculty Senate chair a set of recommendations for changes to the Faculty Bylaws concerning the General Education Committee.

1. **SUNY Seamless Transfer**

As reported to the Faculty Senate last year by L. Barber, in 2012-2013 the Provost gave permission for GE courses so designated to fulfill two domain requirements; that is, a student can fulfill two GE requirements with a single course. As noted above, one of seven courses applications reviewed by the GEC was approved for double designation. Allowance for dual designation gained further significance in one of the GEC’s major initiatives in 2013- 2014: response to the Faculty Senate on GE in Seamless Transfer.

With other campuses in the SUNY system, Old Westbury was mandated to respond with appropriate reviews and changes to the “Memorandum to [SUNY campus] Presidents” (MtP) issued in June 2013, which in turn refers to SUNY Board of Trustees Resolution 2012-089 “Seamless Transfer Requirements” as a basis for this initiative for campuses. The pressing stipulations in Section I.A. of that resolution that GEC needed to respond to were:

1. 30 credits in a minimum of SUNY-GER [General Education Requirement] areas
2. SUNY-GER Mathematics and Basic Communication are required…

iv Campuses shall review existing programs leading to a … bachelor’s degree, to determine whether the SUNY- GER can be completed during the first two years of study….

Through extensive discussion and various levels of consultation, including an open meeting with campus faculty on March 11, 2014, the GEC drafted, finalized and approved a document on Seamless Transfer that was submitted to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The FS EC, under direction of then chair Duncan Quarless, incorporated the GEC response into its document, “Executive Summary on Seamless Transfer (ST)” dated April 18, 2014 and circulated to campus faculty in early May 2014.

In Fall 2014, then chair Duncan Quarless called together an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on GE in Seamless Transfer, which reported recommendations at a special meeting of the Faculty Senate in January 2014. The GEC rejected the principle recommendation of the Subcommittee, to reduce the number of required GE domains to seven, by allowing choice between some of them. Instead, the recommendations the GEC put forth allowed for reduction of GE credit loads by the following:

* Distinguish local GE requirements not mandated by SUNY as a separate category of College requirements, to include English Composition 2 and the Diversity domain.
* Create or redesignate sufficient GE courses with dual domains to allow students to complete GE with 32 credits; that is, with up to two dual-designated courses.

1. **Other Initiatives and Changes**

In Summer 2014 the Provost decided to fill the position of Director of General Education—an administrative position—with an administrator rather than the GEC Chair . As the position is now defined, one of the Director’s responsibilities will be to prepare the *General Education Bulletin*, in collaboration with the GEC Chair and committee. The last *GE Bulletin*, dated October 2013, was produced by Yumi Nicholson of the Academic Advising Center, who serves on the GEC, in collaboration with the Committee.

Early in the Fall 2014 semester, the Provost stated that he would review all GEC-approved courses before sending to SUNY for approval. While the GEC was reviewing applications for new courses, he was not allowing upper-division courses into GE. In Spring 2014, he communicated to the Committee that he would allow some 3000-level courses into the program.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Sawyer

Former GEC Chair, 2013- 2014

November 14, 2014