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GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES

**MEETING DATE:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 10:30-11:30 AM  
**LOCATION:** Bilger 106 or Zoom  
**ATTENDANCE:** [P = Present; A = Absent; E = Excused]

| MEMBERS             |             | MEMBERS        |             | MEMBERS                                  |             | MEMBERS          |             |
|---------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| Kahea Faria         | P<br>(Zoom) | Scott Rowland  | P<br>(Zoom) | Sonja Giardina<br>(ASUH rep)             | E           | Christine Beaule | P<br>(Zoom) |
| Mahealani Kaneshiro | P<br>(Zoom) | Shauna Sibonga | P<br>(Zoom) | Paul McKimmy<br>(OVPAE rep)              | P<br>(Zoom) | Lisa Fujikawa    | P           |
| Keahiahi Long       | P<br>(Zoom) | Brad Taylor    | P           | Max Xiong (Enrollment<br>Management rep) | P<br>(Zoom) | Vicky Keough     | P           |
| Nadine Ortega       | P           | June Zhang     | A           | Gerry Busch<br>(SEC liaison)             | P<br>(Zoom) | Rose Paradise    | E           |

| SUBJECT           | DISCUSSION / INFORMATION  | ACTION / STRATEGY / RESPONSIBLE PERSON                                  |
|-------------------|---|---|
| CALL TO ORDER     |   | Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 10:37                       |
| REVIEW OF MINUTES | Moved by Mahealani and seconded by Scott to approve minutes (as written with suggestions added).  | Minutes from 01/31/24 meeting approved by acclamation.                  |
| INFORMATION ITEMS | Liaison reports (as collected by a Google Form prior to the meeting) can be found at the bottom of this document.<br>A red-line version of the revised governance document as well as a set of explanatory notes were submitted to CAB.   |   |
| ACTION ITEMS      |   |   |
| DISCUSSION ITEMS  | <b>Courses with multiple focus designations</b> (including should we allow courses to carry both W and O designations?): W and O are skills-based and both have high requirements with regard to amount of time in the class, proportion of course grade, and feedback to students. The external program review report in 2018 indicated that students who take multiple-focus courses didn't learn as much | <a href="#">Current course-based focus proposal form (see page 20).</a> |



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focus-wise as in classes with a single focus. Currently, courses rarely carry more than 2. Courses proposing more than 2 designations need to come before the GEC, and typically the GEC defers to the boards' decisions, meaning that the courses are typically approved.

Brad: what do the W- and O-boards think? Shauna says typically the O-board approves the O-part of the class.

Scott: what about requiring 1 credit per focus designation?

Nadine: I teach one of these courses (I inherited it) - most students take it because it ticks off multiple focus designations. I tell my students that it is a challenging class.

Mahealani: ATMO has a W and O course that is part of their accreditation. The W-board looked at it to make sure that, among other things, the student:instructor ratio is satisfied.

Nadine: is this actually a problem?

Christine: There is some feedback in a 2018 report that students didn't learn as much about each focus area in multiple-focus designation courses. Right now we aren't able to decouple student learning in single-skill vs. double-skill courses.

Lisa: this question came from a list of carryover discussion items.

Mahealani: the W-board looks at the student ratio and whether the amount of writing required is reasonable, regardless of whether the course intends to carry another focus designation. We should make sure that such courses are using high-impact practices.

Scott: we need to be careful not to over-police Gen Ed unless there are identified problems.

Mahealani: we should talk to the boards to get their thoughts on such courses.

Christine: this could be a topic for the Gen Ed Advisory board to take up at their next meeting.

Mahealani: The liaisons should present this issue to each board to at least get them thinking about it.

Brad: ask boards if particular focus combinations work or don't work well together.

Christine: the issue is whether multiple-focus courses are less effective than single-focus courses (which are not super-effective themselves). There is anecdotal evidence presented in the 2018 external review that multiple-focus designations are less effective, but no actual data.

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|                   |   |                                     |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
|                   | <p>Keahiahi: without data it is hard to understand the concern. Think that it is one thing to go to the boards, but maybe acquire existing information on multi-foci courses to evaluate success or effectiveness. Could also be a process issue; GEC may want to have a process in place. We need more information first.</p> <p>The GEO will pull multiple-designation proposals for the GEC to review and then the GEC will consult with the Focus Boards.</p> |                                     |
| NEW BUSINESS      |   |                                     |
| UPCOMING MEETINGS | <p><b>SPRING 2024 MEETINGS: Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 AM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• February 28</li> <li>• March 13</li> <li>• March 27</li> <li>• April 10</li> <li>• April 24</li> <li>• May 1 or 8 (final exam week)</li> </ul>  |                                     |
| ADJOURNMENT       |   | Meeting was adjourned by the Chair. |

Respectfully submitted by Scott Rowland, Secretary, and Mahealani Kaneshiro.

Approved on 02/28/2024 by acclamation.

#### LIAISON REPORTS

- GEO Director (Christine Beale): The call for faculty volunteers for the GEC and its Boards was sent from the senate office (uhmfs@hawaii.edu) on January 29. Please forward it to colleagues and encourage them to self-nominate.  
The call for faculty to run for open seats in the faculty senate went out from the same address on February 10 (the self-nomination period runs through 21). Please consider running and encourage colleagues to do the same. If you are elected, we need pro-Gen Ed voices desperately on CAPP, CAB and the SEC, as well as GEC.
- O Board (Shauna Sibonga): The O Board is continuing its work of reviewing SS and F24 classes. Currently, HIST 379/AMST 365 has O board approval for 20 students (course-based) and is also requesting E, H, and W designations.
- W Board (Mahealani Kaneshiro): The committee has not met since the last GEC meeting. The W board will meet on Wednesday, 15 February, at 3 PM.
- HAP Board (Kahea Faria): HAP Board's next meeting is on Wednesday (2/14) afternoon; HAP members plan to review/discuss seven proposals.