

UHM Faculty Senate General Education Committee (GEC)
2012-2013
Spring Report

Membership: Dore Minatodani (Chair), Stacey Roberts (Vice Chair, from Oct. 2012), Joy Logan (on sabbatical), Sarita Rai, Scott Rowland, Amy Schiffner, Comfort Sumida, Dwane Tegman (ASUH), Wei Zhang; with ex officio support from Carolyn Stephenson (SEC liaison), Todd Sammons (GEO), Lisa Fujikawa (GEO), Dawne Bost (GEO), Ronald Cambra (OVCAA), and Ryan Yamaguchi (A&R).

1. Course Proposal Review

The General Education Committee (GEC) reviews course proposals for General Education designations as follows:

- Foundations designations, in all instances. When the Foundations Board (F Board) approves a proposal, it is forwarded to the GEC for a second review.
- Multiple Focus (3 or more) designations. When an instructor requests 3 or more Focus designations, and the respective Focus Boards approve their Focus designations, the full proposal is forwarded to the GEC for an overall review. (Single and dual Focus designations, if approved by the respective Focus Boards, are not reviewed by the GEC.)
- Course-based Focus designations. When a department requests that all sections of a course be designated with any combination of Focus designations (single, dual or more), and the respective Focus Boards approve their Focus designations, the proposal or full proposal is forwarded to the GEC for a second and overall review.
- Focus exemption requests (student-submitted).

	Proposals reviewed	Recommended or approved	Pending, withdrawn, or denied
Foundations	0	0	0
Multiple Focus	3	2	1 denied
Course Based Focus	28 + 3 revisions	28	3
Focus Exemption	3 + 1 revision	2	2

Foundations – While no Foundations proposals were submitted to the GEC for voting, the GEC reviewed one proposal at the request of the Foundations Board. See Section 2 for further discussion on the Foundations review process.

Multiple Focus – Two of the three proposals were approved. The GEC denied approval of the third proposal, which was found to be weak in one of the Focus areas. The GEC worked with the instructor and is expecting to review a revised proposal.

Course-Based Focus – All but three proposals were approved. The three proposals that were not approved were revised and re-submitted to the GEC, which approved the revisions.

Focus Exemption – The GEC received applications for exemptions from various Focus requirements from 3 students. Two were approved and one was denied. The student whose application was denied asked to submit a revised application; the revised application was again denied.

2. Other Issues

Foundations Board procedure changes

The F Board proposed two changes to General Education procedures, both of which were approved by the GEC:

1. Approval period for new Foundations courses changed from 5 to 3 years.
2. Foundations proposals unanimously approved by the F Board are no longer subject to approval by the GEC.

The F Board also approved a requirement that Foundations courses have course coordinators. This change was not subject to GEC vote.

These changes impact the GEC minimally, but warrant comment here. The F Board presented its proposal to change the initial approval period from 5 to 3 years as a way to check in early on newly designated Foundations courses to make sure that they are "on track" with regard to addressing Foundations hallmarks. The renewal period remains 5 years. Along with the new requirement of course coordinators, this change highlights the F Board's attempts to ensure that Foundations requirements are being met consistently.

The change devolving authority for approval of Foundations courses to the F Board in cases of unanimous approval, was approved by the GEC in recognition of the F Board's expertise in the Foundations requirements. The GEC remains a part of the review process in cases where the F Board is not unanimous in its approval of a proposal.

The chairs of the GEC and the F Board will work with the General Education Office to revise procedures and workflows to reflect these changes.

Conditional renewal period for HAP Focus courses (continued from Fall)

In the fall, the Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Issues (HAP) Board notified the GEC that it would be proposing a tiered renewal period for HAP designations. The "regular" renewal period would remain 5 years. The additional renewal period option would be three years, for renewal proposals which are questionable in some way. The GEC asked the HAP Board to bring this to the General Education Advisory Board in the Spring.

From the GEC's perspective, this proposal would require a very specific second set of criteria that could be used to determine which courses would be granted a 3 year renewal period rather than the regular 5 year renewal period. The GEC remains committed to the idea that it is the GEC's and the General Education Boards' responsibility to help instructors and departments meet the Foundations and Focus hallmarks through discussion, suggestions and negotiation. It prefers that the GEC and the Boards use the hallmarks and explanatory notes to guide their work and decision making, rather than develop another set of criteria.

After discussion at the Advisory Board meeting this spring, the proposal was withdrawn.

HAP Focus hallmarks revisions

This spring the HAP Board worked with the multi-campus HAP Boards on a proposal to revise the HAP Focus hallmarks. The proposal is still in draft form and as such is not yet formally a GEC matter, but because procedures for altering General Education requirements and hallmarks with multi-campus implications have not yet been established, the GEC has been monitoring the proposed changes. The GEC's interest is not only in the content of the changes, but in process and ensuring that appropriate consultation occurs. Looking ahead, the multi-campus HAP Boards will be convening a multi-campus "summit" in the fall to discuss its proposed changes, which attempt to clarify or address the following: the meaning of "native Hawaiian," the meaning of "native voice," and assessment issues. The office of the UH Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Manoa General Education Office will be providing support for this effort.

Focus and Diversification exemptions

The GEC and the GEC's Diversification Subcommittee received multiple requests from students for exemptions to Focus and Diversification requirements. Deliberation and followup communication on two requests which did not meet the hallmarks extended far beyond what they should have because committee members were factoring in the students' impending graduations. The chair of the GEC, in consultation with the GEO, asked that any future exemption requests not include mention of factors not directly connected with the evaluation criteria.

General Education promotion

The General Education Office continued this year with its efforts to increase understanding of General Education requirements and procedures, for the purpose of increasing course offerings. The sessions, offered through the Center for Teaching Excellence, have been well attended and well received. The GEC appreciates these efforts and anticipates more classes being proposed for various General Education designations.

3. Manoa Faculty Senate Charges to the GEC

Foundations, Symbolic Reasoning (FS)

SEC charge: Review the Foundational-Symbolic Reasoning Requirement including the alternatives of emphasizing quantitative skills v. symbolic reasoning.

The GEC invited the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Reed Dasenbrock to one of its October meetings to discuss the issue from administrative perspective. The GEC member with the strongest experience with the history of the FS issue was away until November. Upon his return, the GEC reviewed the history of FS.

No additional work was done in the spring on this issue. The GEC recommends that the issue be re-assigned to a larger group in the coming year, to draw upon a larger pool of participants.

Information Literacy

SEC charge: Consider establishing a working group to review how information literacy is being taught across the curriculum. Review as a subset of general education elements the five pillars that WASC has been considering that require us to establish and demonstrate proficiency in

written communication, oral communication, quantitative skills, critical thinking, information literacy.

A working group was convened. Members include:

Christine Beaule, Latin American Studies
Dave Brier, Library Services
Yao Hill, Manoa Assessment Office
Wayne Iwaoka, Food Science
Dore Minatodani, GEC / Library Services
Colin Moore, Political Science
Diane Nahl, Library and Information Science
Sarita Rai, GEC / Study Abroad Center
Richard Rath, History
Kauwela Valeho-Novikoff, Kamakakuokalani

The group convened in the spring and began reviewing definitions of information literacy and criteria for evaluating SLOs. The work will need to continue in the fall, and the GEC asks that this issue be carried over to GEC's 2013-2014 assignment. Most members of the working group have agreed to continue with the issue.

High DFWI Courses

SEC charge: Carryover issue. Co-assigned to Committee on Academic Policy and Planning, Manoa Assessment Committee and GEC.

The inter-committee working group was convened. The GEC is awaiting an update from the working group.