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GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: April 17, 2020, 11:02 AM–12:27 PM
LOCATION: Online via Zoom
ATTENDANCE: [P = Present; A = Absent; E = Excused]

MEMBERS		MEMBERS		MEMBERS		MEMBERS	
Garrett Apuzen-Ito	P	Mike Nassir	P	Christine Beaule	P	Lisa Fujikawa	P
Shana Brown	P	Jon Pettit	P	Ronald Cambra	A	Vicky Keough	P
Garrett Clanin	P	Halina Zaleski	P	Ryan Yamaguchi	A	Cari Ryan	P
Betsy Gilliland	P	Andy Chu (ASUH rep)	P	Carolyn Stephenson (SEC liaison)	P		
Kalikoaloha Martin	P						

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION / INFORMATION	ACTION / STRATEGY / RESPONSIBLE PERSON
CALL TO ORDER	Meeting was called to order by Garrett A-I.	Meeting was called to order at 11:02am
REVIEW OF MINUTES	Minutes from the 3/27 meeting approved with 9 votes in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions. Minutes from the 4/3 meeting approved with 9 votes in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.	Minutes approved at 11:07am Minutes approved at 11:09am
INFORMATION ITEMS	<p><i>GEC Chair's report</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garrett A-I recounts a short conversation with Christine about the emergency grading option of Credit/No Credit in response to the pandemic. Christine confirmed that the GenEd credits are part of the final policy. Anyone who chooses to move to credit/no credit will have their GenEd requirements fulfilled if they earn credit. Christine clarifies that Credit/No Credit will not count towards GPA, but students would need to seek 	



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further counseling on how to get GenEd credit for a grade lower than a C.

- Carolyn asks if there should be something on the GEO website and a memo sent out to GenEd instructors to explain that a No Credit will not receive GenEd credit.
- Christine says that GEO can email faculty, but any email to students would need to come from VCAA. She advises us to wait to see the memo that university will send to faculty and students.

GEO Director's report

- Sheela Sharma has left the GEO. Currently, the GEO's ability to change their website is limited, and the hiring freeze will make it difficult to provide teaching resources online as quickly as we'd planned. Work on the project will continue over the summer.

Liaison reports (E, H, O, W, F, Div, SEC)

- Shana -- HAP Board have finished discussing proposals. The GEO sent some system-wide teaching resources that the HAP Board will review.
- Mike -- Div Board is currently crafting SLOs
- Betsy -- W Board is finishing their review of proposals. In the next couple of weeks, they plan to discuss creating one unified proposal for course-based and instructor-based courses.

SEC Liaison's report

- Provost Bruno raised the possibility of having FW and W-courses with a max of 25 rather than 20 students due to fiscal exigencies. Christine notes that during the last financial crisis, the max enrollment for FW was also temporarily raised to 23. GEO is investigating if this policy might adversely affect grad student instructors, lectures, and junior faculty members. Carolyn asks Christine if these changes to enrollment would be mandatory or voluntary. Christine responds that FW, W, and O are the classes with a cap of 20

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	students (or 30 for O courses with group feedback), but the current discussion is in an early stage. Christine responds that Laura Lyon has spoken with her about this.	
OLD BUSINESS	<p><u>Proposal to add another O requirement:</u> The O Board is investigating last year's assessment results and obtaining feedback from O instructors and students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garrett A-I reports that the chair of the O Board, wrote him and indicated that the board would like to consider the assessment results and feedback from O instructors and students before providing their recommendation. Halina relates the board's intent to consider the assessment findings, especially related to students' need for more time to practice vs. a more foundational introduction to O. <p><u>Western Civ. Policy for FG proration:</u> Update from the F Board/Western Civ group discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jon reports about the Foundations Board meeting last Wednesday (4/8) with the Council of Academic Advisors' (CAA's) Western Civilization policy implementation group to discuss the current status of approving Western Civ transfer courses. The F Board will make a recommendation to the GEC at the next meeting as to whether to expand the category of Western Civ courses to World Civilizations courses. 	



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NEW BUSINESS

Curriculum WG: GEC evaluation/approval of [document for proposing Thematic Pathways in General Education \(TPGE\)](#)

- CWG has been working on mock pathways, and has observed that there should be a minimum of three diversification areas. This will ensure that the courses are offered through multiple departments. It seems as though a minimum of 50 courses, and six GenEd courses would be a good threshold. Ideally, there would be few prerequisites to ensure that students can take courses outside their majors.
 - Also, CWG wants to ensure that these are governed by faculty committees, so it does not add more responsibility to GEC.
- Carolyn asks where did the numbers for the courses come from? Why 50, not 49?
 - Betsy answered that 50 was “a nice round number” and that 6 departments was “enough but not too restrictive.” Betsy noted that the process of making mock pathways helped CWG members gain a sense of what was needed to make a TPGE broad enough to appeal to a wide range of students.
 - Christine observes that a TPGE should be broad and large enough to ensure multiple departments participate.
- Garrett C. asks how many categories or courses students need to fulfill a TPGE.
 - Christine says that currently there will not be a minimum requirement to ensure participation.
 - Betsy notes that the CWG did not want to penalize transfer students.
- Lisa encourages the CWG to clarify the intent of TPGE: giving students options to explore their interests that touch upon different majors. But suggests 50 courses may not be as important as numbers to ensure diversity across schools (e.g., 9 different departments). Christine says that the TPGE, at its core, is a way to filter the large number of Diversifications courses to find that pique their interests.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halina notes that some departments have fairly specific requirements for GenEdt courses that students take and limited opportunity to select courses. This tends to develop student cohorts, and this model might encourage similar broad groups of students working together. We do not want them to have to repeat courses because they selected courses that do not meet prerequisite needs in the sciences. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shana wonders if changing the name from pathways to clusters would inspire wide participation among students. After a short discussion the number of minimum courses was reduced from 50 to 40. Christine notes that this is a trial run, and the GEC can judge next year if the current guidelines are adequate. 	The CWG will revise the TPGE to allow slightly more flexibility.
UPCOMING MEETINGS	SPRING 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE: Fridays from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. via Zoom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 1 May 8 	
ADJOURNMENT		Meeting adjourned at 12:29pm

Respectfully submitted by Jonathan Pettit, Secretary.

Approved on 05/01/2020 with 8 votes in favor of approval, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.