

**UHM Faculty Senate General Education Committee (GEC)**  
**2013-2014**  
**Fall Report**

**Membership:** Stacey Roberts (Chair), Peter Garrod (Vice Chair), Robert Joseph, Joy Logan, Sarita Rai, Scott Rowland, Amy Schiffner, Kiana Shiroma, Dawne Bost, Lisa Fujikawa, Ron Cambra (OVCAA), Todd Sammons (GEO), Ryan Yamaguchi (Admissions), Carolyn Stephenson (SEC Liaison)

## **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 (three or more) designations. When an instructor requests three 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.

	Proposals reviewed	Recommended or approved	Pending, withdrawn, or denied
Foundations	3	2	1
Multiple Focus	10	10	0
Course Based Focus	8	7	1
Focus Exemption	8	6 + 1 revision	1

*Foundations* – Two issues arose in this area during the semester. The first was a request from the Foundations Board to reverse a request it had made and was approved by the GEC in December 2012 to allow the F Board to approve Foundations proposals where the vote was unanimous without GEC review. The F Board supplied several reasons for making this request, and the GEC voted unanimously to approve their request to reverse the December 2012 decision. The other issue the GEC dealt with was the denial of an FS designation for SOCS 150. The details of the history of this case and reason for denial are outlined in the November 6, 2013 GEC minutes.

Multiple Focus –All courses were approved.

Course-Based Focus –The committee reviewed eight proposals and seven were approved. The Chair followed up with the instructor of the denied course to share the questions and concerns of the GEC.

Focus Exemption –Eight students submitted Focus Exemption requests. Six were approved and two were denied. The Chair followed up with the two students whose requests were denied, asking them to better address how their experiences met the hallmarks in their focus areas. One student resubmitted the request, and it was approved. The other student did not resubmit.

## **2. Other Issues**

The General Education Office had several requests from students to receive Focus Exemptions for graduate courses taken at UHM. Now that Manoa has the Master's Entry Program in Nursing, several students in the BSN program have asked about receiving a Focus Exemption for graduate courses they take. After discussion, the GEC decided to allow students to apply for a Focus Exemption using a UHM graduate course, however an exemption will not be granted if the graduate course is also being used to fulfill degree requirements for a graduate program (i.e, being "double dipped").

The UH System HAP Board is also in discussion about changing the existing Hallmarks and Explanatory notes, however no decisions have been made.

## **3. Manoa Faculty Senate Charges to the GEC**

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA) Reed Dasenbrock talked to the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) about the Western Association of Schools and Colleges' (WASC) modified requirements, which now include quantitative reasoning. Manoa's current FS requirement does not align with the new WASC criteria. An example is PHIL 110, which meets the FS requirement but is not considered a quantitative reasoning course. The problem needs to be addressed before Manoa's next WASC accreditation cycle. VCAA Dasenbrock and the GEC Chair met with bringing the issue to the Foundations Board. In November a Quantitative Reasoning Working Group was appointed to look into the matter. The members are:

- Scott Rowland (Geology and Geophysics)
- Joy Logan (Latin American and Iberian Studies)
- Mike Nassir (Physics)
- Linda Furuto (Education)
- Miguel Filipe (Music)
- Monica Stitt-Bergh (Assessment Office)
- Gary Takayama (Advising)