

MINUTES
General Education Committee
March 25, 2025
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Montecito Room

Members present: Michelle Hardley (Secretary, Registrar), Heather Keaney (Professor of History), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Director, Library & Information Services), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Telford Work (Chair, Professor of Religious Studies)

Absent: Gregg Afman (Professor of Kinesiology),

I. Prayer – Telford Work

II. The minutes from March 25, 2025

The minutes from March 25, 2025 were approved with one minor correction.

III. POL-010 –American Government – Add to Common Skills and Emphasis: Justice Reconciliation and Diversity

Telford and Heather still need to have a conversation with Tom Knecht. This item will be discussed in our next meeting.

IV. SOC-200 –Understanding my Neighbor – Add to Common Inquiries: Understanding Society

The committee discussed the proposal. All of the required elements have been accounted for.

The committee voted to approve the course, effective Summer 2025.

V. GE Senior Student Survey

The GE Senior Survey has been administered and the results have been analyzed. Based on the information collected, the committee now needs to determine what items from the survey should be emphasized in our self-study report.

There were a total of 143 Seniors who completed the survey. It was noted that a higher percentage of females to males completed the survey, which may skew the results. Of the respondents, 77% were female and 22% were male.

GE Committee members were asked to provide feedback on each question and note any action steps we thought might come from the data.

Question 1 – Choosing a Liberal Arts College

Thoughts – It is a positive that 90% said they would still choose to attend a Liberal Arts college

Action steps – No action steps suggested

Question 2 – Choosing a Christian Liberal Arts College

Thoughts – There was an interesting shift from 90% agreement in question 1 to 77% agreement in question 2

Action steps – No action steps suggested

Question 3 – GE Areas to Add

Thoughts – Around half the students said no, there are no GE areas that should be added to the curriculum. Of the ones suggested, it seems like they are suggesting courses we already have or asking for more practical courses (e.g. personal finance, transition to life after college, marriage)

Action steps – No action steps suggested

Question 4 – GE Areas to Drop

Thoughts – The PEA courses ranked high in the GE requirements to remove (15% of the students responded affirmatively) – others had responses of less than 10%

Action steps – We may want to take up the proposal to reduce the PEA GE courses again. We could consider this next year if the GE Committee is open to it.

Question 5 – Valuable GE Courses

Thoughts – This item would be important to include in the main report.

Action steps – A suggestion was also made to disseminate this data to the relevant departments and faculty. If depts are named we could send the feedback to the department chair. If faculty are named then we could send the data to the faculty member. We can consider whether to also send it along to the department chair.

Question 14 – GE Classes Geared to Prospective Majors

Thoughts – The data raises the question on whether we want to have GE courses focused more towards a general audience versus having them focused on being an introductory course within the major.

Action steps – This data should be shared with the departments and instructors mentioned. They may want to take this into account in their pedagogy for how they structure and teach their courses. Tatiana also noted in the GE Course Syllabus Guidelines there is language calling for faculty to make sure students understand how this course covers “contextual background, concepts, vocabulary, and skills necessary for understanding the world’ and [is] interesting in their own right.” We may consider finding an appropriate venue to remind faculty of this information.

Question 6-13 and 15-18 will be discussed in a future meeting.

VI. Cross-Cultural Communication Graduation Requirement Standards

The GE Committee discussed the Standards for Fulfilling Cross-Cultural Communication Graduation Requirement document. Students who are F-1 Student Visa holders would have this graduation requirement waived. All other students would submit an essay covering a variety of potential topics to demonstrate how they have had significant cross-cultural experience. These essays would be considered by the Global Education Committee and the results communicated to the Student Records Office.

The GE Committee felt that we need to add in another category for the students who are US Citizens but who come from other-language-speaking communities. This type of student has more experience than the traditional student, but does not live abroad like the Third Culture Individuals (TCI). The essay prompts we give them may need to be unique. They could include elements of both the traditional and the TCI categories.

VII. The JRD Language Review Task for Fall 2025: Telford, Jana, Tatiana

This item will be considered in a future meeting.

VIII. Other Business

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley