

Yearly Report: 2002-2003 General Education Committee

Submitted to:

David Rider, Presiding Officer, University Senate
Tom Barnhart, Presiding Officer-Elect, University Senate
R. Craig Schnell, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Michael Robinson, University Archives

Submitted by

Larry Peterson, Chair.

1. 2002-2003 General Education Committee Members:

Virginia Clark Johnson (VPAA Representative), Philippe d'Anjou (E&A: March to May), Robert Harrold (Assessment), Catherine Haugen (Student Affairs), Phillip McClean (AG), Nancy Mueller (Senate Liaison), Charlene Myhre (Library), Stephen O'Rourke (PHRM), Larry Peterson (AHSS), Brandon Philipczyk (student), Carol Praefcke (E&A: September to February), Doug Rymph (BUS), Grant Striemer (student), Orven Swenson (SM), Justin Wageman (HDE), Kristi Wold-McCormick (Registrar)

2. Meetings:

The Committee met 10 times during the 2002-03 academic year: September 12, October 10, October 22, November 12, December 5, January 21, February 18, March 25, April 22, and May 6.

3. Policy and Procedure Changes:

The Committee recommended one policy change to the University Senate and announced one procedure change.

First, on December 9, 2002 the University Senate approved the following recommendation for a policy change from the General Education Committee.

In response to requests from the Office of Registration and Records to clarify existing policies, the Committee recommends revising General Education Administrative Policy 6 as follows (NDSU 2002-2004 Academic Bulletin, page 25).

Existing Policy

"6. General education requirements can be met by successful completion of a course for which an approved general education course in the same department is a prerequisite or by successful completion of a course which students with advanced standing in a department may substitute for an approved general education course in that department."

New Policy

"6. General education requirements can be met by successful completion of a course for which an approved general education course in the same department is a prerequisite or by successful completion of an advanced course in the same department with comparable course content."

Second, at the January 27, 2003 meeting of the University Senate the General Education Committee notified the Senate and the University of a new procedure designed to increase student and faculty awareness of the General Education Learning Outcomes for each course.

"All general education course syllabi and course web sites must identify the course as having been approved for meeting General Education requirements and include the general education outcomes for which each course is approved."

The General Education Committee will require faculty to include the above material in syllabi for new courses and syllabi for five-year reviews. The Committee urges all faculty to include this general education information on present courses approved for general education.

For example, syllabi should include something such as:

This course has been approved for the Humanities category in general education because it "systematically explores cultural and intellectual forces shaping events, individual expression, and social values." The General Education Outcomes that students should expect to meet as the result of this course are Outcomes 3 "Comprehend the concepts and perspectives needed to function in national and international societies," and Outcome 6 "Integrate knowledge and ideas in a coherent and meaningful manner."

Syllabi might also include a further elaboration such as:

The readings and lectures for this course will help students to meet Outcome 3 by increasing their understanding of the differing experiences of men and women of various classes, ethnic groups, and races in the American past and by increasing their understanding of the foundations of the American form of government and the evolution of its functions. Students will demonstrate their comprehension of concepts and perspectives needed to function in national and international societies on the exams and in one short paper.

The readings and lectures for this course will help students to meet Outcome 6 by providing examples of integrating knowledge and ideas. Students will demonstrate their abilities to integrate course material on the exams and in one short paper.

4. General Education Assessment:

In response to the visit of Dr. Susan Hatfield from Winona State University as a consultant on the Bush grant, members of the University Assessment and General Education Committees met on October 15, 2002 to tackle immediate issues and develop an ongoing plan for assessing general education. Those present from General Education were Robert Harrold, Charlene Myhre, Carol Prafcke, Larry Peterson, and Orven Swenson. Those present from Assessment were Richard Chenoweth, Sherman Goplen, Robert Harrold, Terry Knoepfle, Allyn Kosteki, William Martin, Larry Peterson, Amy Richter, Richard Shaw, and William Slanger.

They agreed on the following action items.

1. Richard Shaw, Carol Prafcke, and William Martin will meet to formulate a plan for continued funding of the research projects in quantitative reasoning and written communication.
2. William Slanger's office (OAIR) will do a transcript analysis and inventory of a random sample of last year's graduates to learn to what extent they were exposed to the outcomes and categories through the approximately 175 general education courses.
3. The General Education Committee will inventory the Five-Year Reviews to compile an up-to-date list of the outcomes claimed by courses and how the outcomes are being assessed.
4. The Joint UAC/GE Subcommittee will investigate the possibility of assessing general education in the capstone courses in the major. This might include developing basic rubrics to assist instructors. In communication these might have criteria such as focus, clarity, organization.
5. We need to look at other models of assessing general education.

6. We need to examine Hatfield's question, "Is general education at NDSU a program or just a collection of courses?"
7. We need to request additional resources from central administration.

The Assessment Committee has completed action items 1 and 7. OAIR is in the process of completing item 2. The joint subcommittee began item 4 and this produced an unsuccessful pre-proposal to FIPSE (Peterson, McClean, Slator) for assessing general education through on-line scenarios. There have been no further actions thus far. The General Education Committee will undertake item 3 next academic year.

At the meeting of May 6, 2003 the General Education Committee agreed to begin an inventory and review of General Education Outcomes embedded in majors-- 1) Computer Usage Integrated In All Majors; 2) Communication Activities in Upper Division Major Courses; 3) Comprehension of Personal and Professional Ethics Integrated in Majors; and 4) Capstone Experience in All Majors. The initial inventory will be followed up later by a review of these embedded outcomes after the Committee develops guidelines and definitions for these embedded GE outcomes.

5. Student Petitions:

The Committee received 36 petitions from students for waivers or exemptions. It granted 23 and denied 13.

6. Course Reviews:

The General Education Committee completed action on 42 courses in the 2002-2003 academic year. There are 3 courses that are still undergoing review and 9 courses whose reviews are overdue.

Courses with Successful Five-Year Reviews, Resulting in Continued Approval for General Education with Changes in Outcomes (16)

Course No.	Course Title	Categories	Previous Outcomes	Recommended Outcomes	Date of Senate Approval
PSYC 250	Developmental Psychology	B	3, 4, 5	4, 5	11/18/02
SOC 412	Sociology of Sex Roles	B, D	1, 3	3, 4	11/18/02
BIOL 126	Human Biology	S (N)	1, 2, 5	2, 5	01/27/03
BIOL 220	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	S (N)	1, 5, 6	5, 6	01/27/03
AGEC 220	World Agricultural Development	B, D	1, 3, 5	1, 2, 3	03/10/03
CDFS 186	Consumer and Society	B	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	2, 3	03/10/03
CDFS 468	Families and Work (New Title)	B	2, 3	2, 3	03/10/03
PLSC 111	Genetics and You	S (N)	5, 6, 7	5, 6	03/10/03
AGRI 189	Skills for Academic Success	F	1, 2, 4, 6	2, 4	04/14/03
HD& E 189	Skills for Academic Success	F	2, 4, 6	2, 4	04/14/03
ENGL 340	19 th -Century American Novel	A, D	1, 2, 3, 6	1, 6	05/12/03
ENGL 341	20 th -Century American Novel	A, D	1, 2, 3, 6	1, 6	05/12/03
ENGL 342	19 th Century American Short Story	A, D	1, 2, 6	1, 6	05/12/03
MUSC 108	Roots of American Popular Music	A, D	1, 3, 6	3, 6	05/12/03
MUSC 201	World Music	A, D	1, 6, 7	6, 7	05/12/03
THEA 115	World Film	A, D	3, 4, 5, 6, 7	3, 4	05/12/03

Courses with Successful Five-Year Reviews, Resulting in Continued Approval for General Education with No Changes in Outcomes (19)

Course No.	Course Title	Categories	Recommended Outcomes	Date of Senate Approval
PHYS 212	College Physics II	S (P)	5, 6	11/18/02
PHYS 212L	College Physics II Lab	S (P)	5, 6	11/18/02
BIOL 151	General Biology II	S (N)	5, 6	01/27/03
BIOL 151L	General Biology II Laboratory	S (N)	5, 6	01/27/03
BIOL 220L	Human Biology I Laboratory	S (N)	5, 6	01/27/03
BIOL 315	Genetics	S (N)	5, 6	03/10/03
BIOL 315L	Genetics Laboratory	S (N)	5, 6	03/10/03
BOT 315	Genetics	S (N)	5, 6	03/10/03
BOT 315L	Genetics Laboratory	S (N)	5, 6	03/10/03
PLSC 315	Genetics	S (N)	5, 6	03/10/03
PLSC 315L	Genetics Laboratory	S (N)	5, 6	03/10/03
POLS 120	Terrorism	B, G	3, 6	03/10/03
POLS 215	Problems & Policies in American Gov't	B	3, 6	03/10/03
POLS 442	Global Policy Issues	B, G	2, 3	03/10/03
ZOO 315	Genetics	S (N)	5, 6	03/10/03
ZOO 315L	Genetics Laboratory	S (N)	5, 6	03/10/03
ABEN 189	Skills for Academic Success	F	2, 4	04/14/03
PHYS 110L	Introductory Astronomy Laboratory	S (P)	5, 6	04/14/03
UNIV 189	Skills for Academic Success	F	2, 4	04/14/03

Courses Approved for New General Education with Outcomes (6)

Course No.	Course Title	Categories	Recommended Outcomes	Date of Senate Approval
HIST 135	Race in U.S. History	A, D	3, 6	11/18/02
CDFS 475	Children and Families Across Cultures	B, D	3, 6	01/27/03
PLSC 211	Horticultural Sciences Laboratory	S (N)	5, 6	03/10/03
ADFH 411	Food and World Cultures	A, D	1, 2, 3	05/12/03
CDFS 230	Life Span Development	B	3, 6	05/12/03
PHIL 101	Introduction to Philosophy	A	3, 6, 7	05/12/03

Courses Approved for New General Education with Outcomes--Will Not Be Submitted to Senate Until Approved by Academic Affairs Committee (1)

Course No.	Course Title	Categories	Recommended Outcomes
ENGR 311	History of Technology in America	A	3, 6

Courses Withdrawn from General Education List of Approved Courses--Failed to Meet Deadline for Submitting Five-Year Reviews (4)

Course No.	Course Title	Categories	Date of Senate Action
CSI 126	Beginning FORTRAN	R	10/14/02
CSI 162	Intense FORTRAN	R	10/14/02
PLSC 210	General Horticulture	S (N)	10/14/02
PLSC 211	General Horticulture Laboratory	S (N)	10/14/02

Five-Year Reviews Still Waiting for Responses from Departments (07/01/03 deadline) (9)

Course No.	Course Title	Categories	Approved	Previous Outcomes
ARCH 322	History of Architecture II	A	Spring 1995	2, 3, 6
BIOL 202	Introductory Microbiology	S (N)	Fall 1997	2, 5
BIOL 202L	Introductory Microbiology Laboratory	S (N)	Fall 1997	2, 5
GEOG 161	World Regional Geography	B, G	Summer 1994	1, 2, 3, 5
GEOL 304	Eastern North Dakota Field Course	S (P)	Fall 1996	5
LANG 491H	Imaginary Homelands	A	Fall 1997	1, 6 (mislabeled 5)
ME 189	Skills for Academic Success	F	Spring 1998	2, 4
SOIL 210	Introduction to Soil Science	S (P)	Spring 1995	5, 6
UNIV 403	Weighing the Evidence	B	Spring 1998	3, 6

Five-Year Reviews Not Completed -- In Process (3)

Course No.	Course Title	Categories	Approved	Previous Outcomes
CDFS 242	Marriage and the Family	B	Spring 1997	2, 4, 7
MUSC 103	Introduction to Music History	A	Fall 1996	1, 6, 7
WS 350	Perspectives in Women's Studies	A, D	Fall 1997	1, 6 (mislabeled 5)