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## General Education Subcommittee Minutes, December 15, 2020

Utah State University

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### Recommended Citation

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*Educational Policies Committee*. Paper 1089.

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## GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

December 15, 2020  
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m  
Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Lee Rickords, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences (Chair)  
Christopher Scheer, Caine College of the Arts  
Greg Podgorski, College of Science  
Matt Sanders, Connections  
Dory Rosenberg, University Libraries  
Robert Mueller, Statewide Campuses/Communications Intensive  
Charlie Huenemann, Humanities  
Ryan Bosworth, Social Sciences  
Toni Gibbons, Registrar's Office  
Mykel Beorchia, University Advising  
Kristine Miller, University Honors Program  
Shelley Lindauer, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services  
John Mortensen, Academic and Instructional Services  
Thom Fronk, College of Engineering  
Harrison Kleiner, College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Paul Barr, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost  
Lawrence Culver, American Institutions  
Claudia Radel, S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources  
David Brown, Quantitative Literacy/Intensive  
Beth Buyserie, Communications Intensive Subcommittee Member  
Michelle Smith, Secretary

**Excused:** David Wall, Creative Arts  
Steve Nelson, USU Eastern  
Daniel Holland, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business  
Sami Ahmed, USUSA President  
Ryan Dupont, Life and Physical Sciences

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**Call to Order** – Lee Rickords, 8:31 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes** – [November 17, 2020](#)

*Motion: Shelley Lindauer*

*Second: Christopher Scheer*

*Minutes approved unanimously*

**Course Approvals/Removals/Syllabi Approvals**

<https://usu.curriculog.com/>

ARTH 4260 (CI) **APPROVED**.....Robert Mueller  
Discussion: Explained by Bob Mueller  
Motion to approve made by Bob Mueller  
Seconded: Greg Podgorski  
Approved unanimously

SOC 3320 (DSS) **APPROVED**.....Ryan Bosworth  
Discussion: Explained by Ryan Bosworth  
Motion to approve made by Ryan Bosworth  
Seconded: Bob Mueller  
Approved unanimously

SOC 3750 (DSS) **APPROVED**.....Ryan Bosworth  
Discussion: Explained by Ryan Bosworth  
Motion to approve made by Ryan Bosworth  
Seconded: Bob Mueller  
Approved unanimously

SOC 4440 (DSS) **APPROVED**.....Ryan Bosworth  
Discussion: Explained by Ryan Bosworth. A study-abroad class, was discussed in November.  
Motion to approve made by Ryan Bosworth  
Seconded: Charlie Huenemann  
Approved unanimously

APEC 3020 (DSS Removal) **APPROVED**.....Ryan Bosworth  
Discussion: Class will be a 2000-level class and can't have designation.  
As it no longer meets designation criteria, removal is informational only. No vote needed.

GEO 3200 (DSC Removal) **APPROVED**.....Ryan Bosworth  
Discussion: Greg Podgorski explained it will be a 2000-level class.  
As it no longer meets designation criteria, removal is informational only. No vote needed.  
Harrison pointed out that these courses could be breadth level requirements as long as scope isn't too narrow. There will be more depth designations dropped to align with USHE's move to help align general education in the future, so that may be something to look at.

PSC 2040 (BPS) **APPROVED**..... Ryan Dupont (Absent)  
Discussion: Ryan Dupont not present at committee meeting. Michelle explained the basic course outline. Greg also explained he had looked it over carefully and it looked to be a good course for the designation.  
Motion to approve made by Lee Rickords  
Seconded: Bob Mueller  
Approved by most, Charlie Huenemann opposed. Charlie explained he was against it because the chair wasn't there to provide background and hadn't informed the chairman. Without access to the chair of the subcommittee, he didn't want to approve. No abstentions.

GEO 5570 (QI) **APPROVED**.....David Brown  
Discussion: Explained GEO 5570. Was on docket previously but removed for edits and updates, and was later added back. QI rubric was being developed and is available. Greg explained he didn't approve it as dean and he felt uncomfortable moving it forward. He asked for edits to make sure the proposal was aligned with the rubric.

*Motion to approve made by David Brown  
Seconded: Greg Podgorski  
Approved unanimously*

## **Business**

### *Gen Ed Task Force Updates*

*The state wants institutions' General Ed requirements to be more cohesive for transfer students and to ensure students from Technical colleges will be able to enter four-year programs at all universities without being penalized. USU will need to add more Gen Ed courses/credit requirements to meet the upcoming mandate from USHE.*

*If USHE raises the minimum Gen Ed requirements to 35 credits, USU will have to design co-requisite courses that would qualify for Gen Ed designations. It will be difficult in some departments to add five more credits to their coursework to meet the Gen Ed mandate. Many departments, such as those in the College of Science, Agriculture, Arts, and Engineering, will be in a difficult position to meet this requirement.*

*Some suggestions for addressing this impact of a change or mandate from USHE for Gen Ed requirements were to add classes in majors/departments into the Gen Ed scope such as at some other universities. Other institutions also require three types or categories of classes and call them Gen Ed, and include a list of courses much larger than USU currently offers within those types of courses for students to choose from.*

*There is some concern that such a mandate could erode the value of a General Education as USU has worked to create.*

*Harrison Kleiner pointed out that there are squeezes on both ends of a USHE mandate – institutions that have to drop their Gen Ed requirements will also be hurting. Our issue is an easier one to solve than theirs. We have only 27 credits and adding a temporary option gets us to 30. If we have to go up to 33, we have six credits that are fillers. This is a challenge to not harm students and departments. The committee should look intentionally at those six credits. How do we help students use those credits to be more and do more? We already had to address this with the integrated options. Now it is time to have that discussion/conversation to make Gen Ed better, not watered down. You have to make sure that students meet Learning Objectives, not credits. Are students achieving proficiency in outcomes for Gen Ed? Credits are an antiquated way to measure that.*

*John commented that if you look at the whole package, USU has a strong package with Univ studies and depth and breadth classes. We could look at increasing Gen Ed and lowering Univ studies. Other universities have a diversity requirement. Some institutions have students take three areas of courses, such as quantitative, humanities, and science. We can't require high depth requirements and still meet the Gen Ed requirements.*

*Lee stated that those making decisions for USHE are looking from the viewpoint of students trying to transfer from a two-year or technical college to a four-year institution and how to make the first two years more transferrable without penalties for transferring.*

*Paul said that Gen Ed and University Studies are two different requirements. There might be some changes for depth requirements with changes in Gen Ed requirements. Diversity is also on the table as a requirement at USU.*

### *Composition Outcomes*

*Harrison stated that he and Beth have been looking at the whole CI/CL sequence for over a year. They have been working with a group of CI instructors and committee members to come up with rubrics. They are ready to put them forward.*

*CL1 and CL2 (Eng 1010 & 2010), and other CI rubrics were a stumbling block when accreditors were assessing USU. Making a CL rubric helped satisfy their demands. The working group started with CI – what do students need to understand and do and then how can CL2 and CL1 outcomes meet that effort? It has been a collaborative effort to make this rubric.*

*The sequence CI, CL2, and CL1 rubrics are to be presented for adoption to the committee in the future.*

*Lee pointed out that it will not be voted on today, it will be explained and then we will vote next month so people can ask more questions.*

*Harrison presented differences with the former rubrics and current suggestions. One change was in Outcome #5. The CI committee decided to remove information literacy from CI. It remains in CL1 and CL2.*

*A concern was expressed regarding removing information literacy. How can the rubric be revised to recognize that students are going to use information in communications skills for their literacy? Is there a way to make sure that all classes meet the four points in the generalized description of General Education? There is a meaningful way to include information literacy as part of a rubric requirement and it is an important skill all students should be expected to learn.*

*Another concern was language used to evaluate proficiency. The language emphasized positive outcomes, but did not use words such as “lacking”. If students felt they were meeting the rubric requirements because they were “satisfactory” and didn’t really value or understand the desire was to be “proficient”, would the rubric be followed or provide impetus for improvement? Such language would also make proposals for the General Education designation harder to assess.*

*Harrison stated the General Education description will be revised. He also mentioned that information literacy occurs in every major but didn’t feel it needed to be in the CI course rubric, such as with creative writing courses.*

*The Communications Intensive Committee will look at the feedback and determine how to make necessary revisions to the rubric.*

*Lee said that those with suggestions and questions should communicate them to Harrison.*

*Harrison also said that since there is a break coming up, he doesn’t know if he’ll have made substantive progress in revisions by January. He prefers for the rubric to be on the docket for February.*

### *Course Fee Approval Timeline*

*Michelle and Toni explained that changes made to courses for designations need to be approved through the EPC by February so that changes to course designations can be added to the catalog for summer term.*

*Paul explained that the timeline for designations was changed to benefit students so that any changes are published the same across all areas, such as in the catalog and online. The designations are changed once, not semester by semester so there are no inconsistencies.*

*Lee thanked the committee.*

**Adjourn at 9:35 a.m.**