

9-17-2015

General Education Committee Report_15-16-1: Changes to the Structure of the General Education Program.

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Serial Number #15-16—3

TO: President David Dooley
FROM: Joëlle Rollo-Koster, Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL titled, General Education Committee Report #15-16-1: Changes to the Structure of the General Education Program, is forwarded for your consideration.
2. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on September 17, 2015.
3. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
4. In accordance with Section 10, paragraph 4 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective October 8, 2015 three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; or (3) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum.



Joëlle Rollo-Koster
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate


September 17, 2015

ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

- a. Approved .
- b. Approved subject to Notice of the Council on Postsecondary Education ____.
- c. Disapproved ____.



Signature of the President

9.28.15

(date)

**General Education Committee Special Report
July 30, 2015**

The General Education Committee met on the following dates:

May 21, June 4, June 11, June 18, June 25, July 2, and July 9, 2015

General Education Committee membership (* Senator):

Martin Bide, TMD (17)
Bridget Buxton, HIS (17)
Lars Erickson, LAN (16)
*Steven Irvine, BIO (17)
Jim Kinnie, LIB (17) Chair
Scott Lloyd, CBA (18)
Valerie Maier-Sperdelozzi, ISE (15) (through June 30)
*Arthur Mead, ECN (18)
Bahram Nassersharif, MISE (18) (effective July 1)
Kelly Orr, PHP (16)
Travis Williams, ENG (18)
Laura Beauvais, Provost's Representative
Melissa Boyd-Colvin, Student Affairs Representative
Anne Hubbard, BIS, ASFCCE Representative (through June 30)
Jayne Richmond, Dean, University College

The General Education Committee recommends the following changes to the structure of the General Education program:

1. Separate Arts & Humanities into two distinct Student Learning Outcomes:
 - Humanities
 - Arts & Design
2. Limit to (3) three the number of general education courses within the same disciplinary code

The total number of Student Learning Outcomes will increase to 12 and Grand Challenge will remain as an overlay to approved courses.

These changes were prompted by faculty reactions to the implementation workshops held in April and May 2015 and by concerns raised by the General Education Implementation Steering Team (GEIST) that general education guidelines established by NEASC for aesthetic appreciation, historical perspectives, and ethical considerations were not explicitly addressed in the program. The pertinent NEASC paragraphs are:

NEASC 4.17 The general education requirement in each undergraduate program ensures adequate breadth for all degree-seeking students by showing a balanced regard for what are traditionally referred to as the arts and humanities, the sciences including mathematics, and the social sciences. General education requirements include offerings that focus on the subject matter and methodologies of these three primary domains of knowledge as well as on their relationships to one another.

NEASC 4.19 Graduates successfully completing an undergraduate program demonstrate competence in written and oral communication in English; the ability for scientific and quantitative reasoning, for critical analysis and logical thinking; and the capability for continuing learning, including the skills of information literacy. They also demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific, historical, and social phenomena, and a knowledge and appreciation of the aesthetic and ethical dimensions of humankind.

The General Education Committee reviewed the course rubrics relative to the NEASC guidelines and assessment of the Student Learning Outcomes and 1) expanded the language to more explicitly address aesthetic appreciation, historical perspectives, and ethical considerations, 2) added an ethics criterion to the Grand Challenge course guidelines, and 3) created a separate Arts and Design Student Learning Outcome. The design aspect was added to make the outcome more inclusive.

At the May 7, 2015 General Education Committee meeting, the Committee discussed amendments to the 2014 General Education legislation proposed by the Department of English and the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. An amendment was approved to limit the number of courses that may be used in common for major credit and General Education credit. The recommendation states:

Of the courses taken to complete General Education requirements, only three (3) courses, or up to 12 credits not exceeding three (3) courses, may share the same disciplinary code. An exception to the limit is allowed for the HPR (Honors Program topic) course code.

University Manual and Catalog will follow at later date.