General Education Committee
Chaired by William Wells, Spring 05
Chaired by David Hassenzahl, Fall 05

Spring 05 Report

I. The meetings of the General Education Committee during the 2005 Spring Semester are listed below:

February 14, 2005
Attendance: Ron Anderson, David Hassenzahl, Anne Hein, Heather Howard, Julie Lirot, Joanie MacDonald, Collin Ramdeen, William Wells

February 28, 2005
Attendance: Ron Anderson, Carrayn Bellomo, David Hassenzahl, Julie Lirot, Joanie MacDonald, Collin Ramdeen, William Wells, Pat Zozaya

April 4, 2005
Attendance: Ron Anderson, Carrayn Bellomo, David Hassenzahl, Anne Hein, Heather Howard, Julie Lirot, Joanie MacDonald, Beth Rosenberg, William Wells, Pat Zozaya

April 18, 2005
Attendance: Ron Anderson, Carrayn Bellomo, David Hassenzahl, Anne Hein, Heather Howard, Julie Lirot, Collin Ramdeen, William Wells, Pat Zozaya

May 2, 2005
Attendance not available

June 16
Attendance not available

II. Student Petitions

Sixty four student petitions were submitted to the Committee. Thirty eight were approved. The remaining were either denied or returned without action.

III. Current Issues

a) The Committee has invited the Director of General Education, Beth Rosenberg, to its Spring 05 meetings as well as the Chair of the University Advisory Council, Heather Howard. The intent was to create a dialog among these groups with common interest in general education requirements in order to improve student advising.

b) The Committee is currently considering a proposal for changes to its bylaws, including the roles of the Director of General Education and the Chair of the Advisory Council in the Faculty Senate General Education Committee.

c) At its April 18, 2005 meeting, the Committee heard a request from Professor Steve Rowland to have his new course GEY 126, Science in American Culture, to qualify for general education science credit. The GEC approved this request subject to the course’s general approval by the Curriculum Committee.
d) Approved the concept that the Director of General Education and the Chair of the University Advising Council have non-voting membership on the GEC Committee.

e) Beth Rosenberg, Director of General Education, proposed that the Steering Committee of her Advisory Committee be allowed to make decisions on whether or not transfer courses fulfill multi-cultural and international requirements. The GEC voiced no objections to the proposal.

f) At its June 16, 2005 meeting, the Faculty Senate General Education Committee formally approved the draft of the General Education Mission Statement and Learning Outcomes as presented by Dr. Beth Rosenberg, Director of General Education.

IV. 2005 – 2006 Charges

No action has been taken on recommendations of how Nevada State College can make a transition to UNLV core requirements instead of UNR.

V. Upcoming Recommendations for the Committee

The issue of how Nevada State College can make a transition to UNLV core requirements and further possible changes in the Committee bylaws should be considered by the Committee during the 2005 – 2006 academic year.

Fall 05 Report

I. The meetings of the General Education Committee during the 2005 Fall Semester are listed below:

August 9, 2005
- Voting: David M. Hassenzahl (Chair), Ron Anderson, Anne Hein, Carryn Bellomo
- Ex Officio: Beth Rosenberg, Jeanette Sorensen, Adelfa Sullivan, Cem Sunata
- Visitors: (None)

September 12, 2005
- Voting: David M. Hassenzahl (Chair), Anne Hein, Tom Piechota, Carryn Bellomo, Joanie MacDonald
- Ex Officio: Beth Rosenberg, Jeanette Sorensen, Adelfa Sullivan, Clarissa Erwin
- Visitors: Daniel Villanueva

October 3, 2005
- Voting: Ron Anderson, David Hassenzahl (Chair), Anne Hein, Joan MacDonald, Tom Piechota
- Ex Officio: Beth Rosenberg, Adelfa Sullivan, Jeanette Sorensen
- Proxy: Carryn Bellomo

November 5, 2005
- Voting: Ron Anderson, David Hassenzahl (Chair), Anne Hein, Joan MacDonald, Carryn Bellomo, Tom Piechota
- Ex Officio: Adelfa Sullivan, Jeanette Sorensen

II. Student Petitions
Twenty-six student petitions were submitted to the Committee. Seventeen were approved. The remaining were either denied or returned without action.

III. Course proposals
a. The committee approved four UNLV courses considered to meet the international or multicultural core requirement.
b. The committee reorganized the approval of foreign language courses for that meet the international core requirement. Henceforth, all foreign language courses (those with the following prefixes: FOL, ARA, CHI, FREN, GER, GRE, HEB, ITAL, JPN, RUS and SPAN) will be considered to meet the international core requirement unless specifically excluded.

IV. Current Issues
a) The Committee approved procedures that formalized our policies on handling petitions (see end of report). These policies reflect the standards that have evolved over the past several years. The advantage of having them formalized is that the Chair can return petitions that are not within the purview of the General Education Committee without spending committee meeting time. The Chair is charged with reporting to the committee all petitions returned on this basis.
b) The Committee, in consultation with the Disability Resource Center, has established standards for students petitioning for waivers from or alternatives to the General education mathematics requirement. These standards appear in the attached petition standard practices.

V. Upcoming Recommendations for the Committee
a. The committee may need to revisit all multicultural and international courses in the near future. Some courses on the list may be difficult to justify if we are required to assess the General Education standards. To this end, the committee should develop and recommend policies on the re-examination of previously approved courses.
b. The committee should consider moving all non-petition business to the web, and expand the website.
c. The committee has discussed a math substitute for students with documented disabilities on a number of occasions (see above). Phi 105 has previously been approved, but is no longer offered. Consequently, the committee has no acceptable options for students with math disabilities. The Math Department has no expertise in teaching students with mathematics disabilities, and has no viable courses. The committee therefore should develop acceptable alternatives for students with documented mathematics disabilities.
d. The committee should develop and recommend policies to define, distinguish, and coordinate roles of the new Director of General Education position, the General Education Advisory Committee, and the Faculty Senate General Education Committee

Standard Practices for Considering Student Petitions
Approved by Committee 3 October 2005

1. Petitions that do not address the UNLV General Education Core will not be considered by this committee
2. Petitions with inadequate documentation will not be considered by this committee, but will be returned to the student with a request for complete information.

3. Documented mathematics disability
   a. Petitions based on mathematics disabilities will only be granted if the student has attempted an appropriate mathematics course at UNLV with accommodations.
   b. Petitions for exceptions to the mathematics core must include a memorandum of support from the UNLV Disability Resource Center (DRC). This memorandum should include:
      i. A statement by the DRC confirming that the student has a mathematics disability that has been documented by a qualified expert.
      ii. A history of inability to pass mathematics courses (this should include courses attempted in other colleges and K–12).
      iii. A statement verifying that the student has attempted an appropriate mathematics course at UNLV with DRC accommodations.
      iv. If appropriate, a suggested alternative (e.g., a waiver of the requirement or an alternative course).

4. Core from catalog year other than that under which student is graduating
   a. Petitions to replace core requirements from one catalog with core requirements from another catalog will not be considered.
5. International, Multicultural or Distribution courses from another institution
   a. Petitions to accept courses taken at another accredited institution of higher 
education as part of the UNLV core will be considered. Such courses must either
      i. Be equivalent to existing UNLV courses or
      ii. Meet the goals and outcomes of the UNLV core
   b. A course from another institution that is approved for one student will be 
considered approved for all students
   c. Petitions to accept courses in American Sign Language for the International Core 
will not be considered.
6. UNLV courses for International or Multicultural Core
   a. Petitions to consider UNLV courses that are listed as International or 
Multicultural Core courses to meet those core requirements will not be 
considered.
   b. UNLV courses that are listed as meeting the International or Multicultural Core in 
a catalog MORE RECENT than the catalog under which the student is graduating 
will be considered
7. UNLV core for second degrees.
   a. Students seeking a second degree are required to meet the UNLV core.
   b. Petitions to wave the core will not be considered unless the student can document 
having been advised that the UNLV core was not required PRIOR TO Spring 
2005
8. All other petitions will be considered on an individual basis