

MINUTES
General Education Committee
September 21, 2023
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Montecito Room

Members present: Steve Butler (Professor of Music), David Hunter (Professor of Mathematics), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Director, Library & Information Services), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Felicia Song (Professor of Sociology), Tara Sturges (Recording Secretary and Associate Registrar)

Absent: Michelle Hardley (Registrar)

Guests Present: Blake Kent (Associate Professor of Sociology)

I. Prayer - Felicia Song

II. The minutes from September 7, 2023

The minutes from September 7, 2023, were unanimously approved.

III. Understanding Society Update: David Hunter

David Hunter informed the committee that a meeting for associated faculty to discuss the Understanding Society assessment is set for October 3, 2023. Results of this discussion will be discussed at the October 12, 2023 GE Committee meeting. Tatiana Nazarenko will contact Deborah Dunn to confirm that Deborah's scoring data will be added to the final report.

IV. POL-113 Syllabus; POL-113 Submission Form

Felicia Song will contact Tom Knecht to ask that further annotations be made to the existing syllabus to provide more granular information concerning how specific assignments and readings address the criteria of the JRD GE. It is noted that POL-113 is not currently approved by the GE committee to fulfill any other GE area.

Consideration of this item revealed that further discussion and clarification are needed concerning what percentage of JRD content is sufficient for approving a course to fulfill this GE.

V. SOC-108 Submission Form; SOC-108 syllabus; SOC-108 additional commentaries (GE Committee Google Drive): Blake Kent

Blake Kent proposed that an updated/revised version of SOC-108 be allowed to fulfill the Reasoning Abstractly (RA) Common Inquiry requirement in addition to the QAR requirement. It was noted that the Philosophy department communicated support for this proposal while the Math

department was opposed. A vote ensued with responses comprising 4 ayes, 1 nay, and 1 member who abstained from voting. Thus, the motion was carried to approve this updated version of SOC-108 to be allowed to fulfill the RA requirement in a similar manner and at the same status as MA-005 is approved to do so. This update takes effect beginning in Spring 2024.

The committee discussed how this motion was carried and approved based on fairness. It was noted that neither MA-005 nor SOC-108 fulfill the current definition of “abstract reasoning” as listed in the GE Combined Document, specifically the “non-empirical” element. If MA-005 is delisted from being approved to fulfill the RA requirement that SOC-108 will also be delisted.

Members of the committee asked that a future agenda item entail a discussion to consider whether the current criteria and definitions of the Reasoning Abstractly GE as listed in the GE Combined document need to be revised and/or whether this category might be removed from the GE requirement completely.

VI. Serving Society proposal to the Senate (GE Committee Google Drive)

Tatiana Nazarenko updated the committee on the proposal to make the Serving Society requirement a graduation requirement and move it out of the GE. Discussion topics included the number of hours of service required, whether certain courses (e.x., department internships, cross-cultural experiences currently fulfill the Compassionate Action/Communicating Cross-Culturally requirement) would fulfill this updated requirement, and who will be responsible for overseeing this requirement and tracking each student’s completion. The committee voted unanimously to send the proposal to the Senate in anticipation that these and other arising details will be determined further down the road.

Action: Committee members will review this proposal and send suggestions for updates in the next few days. Felicia Song will send an updated document to Steve Contakes for the Senate’s review.

VII. QAR syllabi audit: Tatiana

Discussion postponed to the next meeting.

VIII. Writing-Intensive syllabi audit update: Tatiana

Discussion postponed to the next meeting.

IX. Other business

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Sturges