

MINUTES
General Education Committee
November 11, 2025
1:00pm-2:30pm
Montecito Room

Members present: Michelle Hardley (Secretary, Registrar), Heather Keaney (Professor of History), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Director, Library & Information Services), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Dave Wolf (Professor of Kinesiology), Telford Work (Chair, Professor of Religious Studies)

Absent:

I. Prayer – Jana Mayfield Mullen

II. Approval of the minutes from October 28, 2025
The minutes were approved.

III. GE Committee Annual Assessment Update Report

The GE Committee worked on editing the annual assessment report to include the final pieces of data from the GE senior survey assessment results. This section will also be added to the final WSCUC report.

The committee members also discussed the Modern Foreign Language assessment results from last year. Their external reviewer suggested to move from requiring one semester of language at their current level to a competency-based assessment requiring a certain competency to be reached to meet the requirement. It seems like the department is interested in moving in this direction, but there has not been movement from them yet to craft a proposal. In the report the Modern Foreign Language faculty noted that they look forward to “sharing these results”.

The GE Committee would like the department to clarify what they mean by “sharing the results”. The committee also indicated a willingness to help the department craft a proposal if they are interested in moving this concept forward.

IV. TA-140 – Race and Gender on the American Stage – Add to Common Skills and Emphasis: Justice Reconciliation and Diversity

Heather continued her conversation with the faculty member who teaches this course. They requested a sample syllabus from another course that had been approved for this GE category so they could get a sense of how the theological issues

were successfully addressed. As Heather looked for a sample syllabus, she had some additional questions on other approvals that she wanted to talk through in the committee.

The GE Committee agreed that we are not asking faculty to address what the biblical and theological principles are, but that they reference those issues within the context of the syllabus and weave them in through the assignments and course content in meaningful ways. Moving forward it was decided that we should ask for examples of the biblical and theological grounds to be highlighted in future submissions.

It was further decided that no changes to the certification criteria were needed, but that we would point faculty to the broader certification criteria in the earlier parts of the JRD section to guide their submissions.

In this proposal, no sample syllabi will be given but Heather will point the faculty member back to the full section of the GE and to specific areas that might be helpful in a resubmission.

V. COM-138 – Request for Approval for JRD Effective Fall 2025

Committee members discussed the request to implement the recently approved JRD credit for the COM-138 class being offered in fall 2025 this semester, versus waiting until its next offering to award the credit.

Given that the quick roll out of the JRD and that the instructor has been vice-chair over the last year the request was approved. This approval does not set a precedent for future submissions.

VI. Critical Thinking Lead Assessment Specialist's Memo

Bob is asking for the GE Committee to be part of the next steps work to address the deficiencies in critical thinking seen in the recent institutional learning assessment work.

He is suggesting that additional critical thinking exercises be embedded in the courses that meet the Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Quantitatively and Analytical Reasoning GE areas. These areas, by their nature, may focus more on science concepts and math, but would also be spaces where critical thinking skills could be developed with more focus. Ideally these courses could focus on adding exercises that would ask students to identify what data or information is missing in

a scenario order to make a decision or make an evaluation. Our students have consistently score lower on these kinds of questions in past ILO assessments.

Committee discussed whether to fold these concepts into our assessment work in these three GE areas. A question was raised as to whether this kind of work was better done at the departmental level in the annual and seven year assessment reports from the departments versus at the GE level.

VII. Other Business

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley