

## Yearly Report: 2003-2004 General Education Committee

### Submitted to:

Tom Barnhart, Immediate Past Presiding Officer, University Senate  
Charles Harter, Presiding Officer, University Senate  
James Council, Presiding Officer-Elect, University Senate  
R. Craig Schnell, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Michael Robinson, University Archives

### Submitted by

Larry Peterson, Chair

### **1. 2003-2004 General Education Committee Members:**

David Axt (student, September to November), Virginia Clark Johnson (VPAA Representative), Brian Dougan (E&A), Robert Harrold (Assessment), Catherine Haugen (Student Affairs), Marina loudina (PHRM), James R. Larson (student, December to May), Phillip McClean (AG), Char Myhre (Library), Larry Peterson (AHSS), Doug Rymph (BUS), Grant Striemer (student), Orven Swenson (SM), Justin Wageman (HDE), Kristi Wold-McCormick (Registrar)

### **2. Meetings:**

The Committee met 12 times during the 2003-2004 academic year: September 5, September 19, October 10, October 31, November 7, November 21, December 5, January 26, February 2, March 1, March 22, and May 3.

### **3. Policy and Procedure Changes:**

Representatives from the English Department met with the Committee on March 1 and May 3 to propose revising the General Education Communication requirements by creating a vertically structured writing requirement. The Committee urged the department to present this idea to all of the colleges on campus and to aim for a Fall 2005 implementation after approval by the Committee and the University Senate.

The Committee developed and approved draft rubrics for the General Education Learning Outcomes 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7. These will be placed on the Committee's home page to serve as guidelines for future committee members and for faculty submitting courses. In addition it investigated the possibility of linking the data base of general education courses and their outcomes to the web-based formative assessment tool (WBFAT). If that can be done, then when an instructor for a general education class used the WBFAT formative assessment questions tailored for her/his general education learning outcomes would automatically come up as options.

The Committee will begin using a spreadsheet (similar to the one used by the Academic Affairs Committee) to track progress of individual courses that have either received approval or are undergoing review. We plan to make it available on the committee's Web-site, for access by committee members and the campus community.

At the request of Provost Schnell, the Committee initiated a review of University 189: Skills for Academic Success. Carolyn Schnell, Director of University Studies, George Wallman, Vice President for Student Affairs, and William Slinger, Director of the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis, provided information on SROIs, student self-assessments, and cohort retention. A special subcommittee composed of the members of the Social and Behavioral Sciences, Quantitative Reasoning, and Wellness Subcommittee and representatives of Student Affairs and the Library will review the information and develop a recommendation to bring to the full committee.

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**4. General Education Assessment:**

Based on recommendations from Dr. William Slanger, Director of the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis, the Committee drafted a proposal to Provost Schnell requesting funding to give the Academic Profile from ETS to a randomly stratified sample of 50 seniors. Provost Schnell funded the tests on April 17 and 24. Unfortunately, student turnout was low.

On June 5, 2003 the Committee sent letters to department chairs asking for information on how each department was implementing the requirements for General Education Categories integrated into the major. Those categories are: Category 9: Computer Usage Integrated in All Majors; Category 10: Communication Activities in Upper Division Major Courses; Category 11: Comprehension of Personal and Professional Ethics Integrated in Majors; and Category 12: Capstone Experience in All Majors. The Committee did not begin to analyze the reports last year. The departments of Animal and Range Sciences, Biological Sciences, Computer Sciences, Geosciences, and Fine Arts have not yet responded.

**5. Student Petitions:**

The Committee received 28 petitions from students for waivers or exemptions. It granted 20 and denied 8.

**6. Course Reviews:**

The General Education Committee completed action on 15 courses in 2003-2004. There are 7 courses that have been returned to faculty for further revision.

**Courses Approved by Senate as New General Education Courses (4)**

Course No.	Course Title	Categories	Recommended Outcomes	Date of Senate Approval
HON 386:	World Literature: Imaginary Homelands	A, D	1, 6	01/26/04
PLSC 210	Horticulture Science	S (N)	2, 5	04/19/04
ART 111	Introduction to Art History	A, G	3, 6	05/10/04
WS 110	Introduction to Women's Studies	A, D	1, 6	05/10/04

**Courses Approved by Senate for General Education with New Titles and Course Descriptions (2)**

Course No.	Course Title	Categories	Recommended Outcomes	Date of Senate Approval
CDFS 242	Couples, Marriages, and Families	W	4, 6	03/08/04
ENGR 311	History of Technology in America	A	3, 6	03/08/04

**Course with Successful Five-Year Reviews, Approved by Senate for General Education with No Changes (1)**

Course No.	Course Title	Categories	Previous Outcomes	Recommended Outcomes	Date of Senate Approval
HIST 431	The North American Plains	A, D	3, 6	3, 6	05/10/04

**Courses with Successful Five-Year Reviews, Approved by Senate for General Education with Changes in Outcomes (5)**

Course No.	Course Title	Categories	Previous Outcomes	Recommended Outcomes	Date of Senate Approval
GEOL 304	Eastern North Dakota Field Course	S (P)	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	5, 6	10/14/03
ENGL 345	Themes in American Culture	A, D	1, 2, 3, 6	1, 2, 3	12/08/03
ARCH 322	Architectural History II	A	2, 3, 6	2, 6	04/19/04
GEOG 161	World Regional Geography	B, G	1, 2, 3, 5	3, 6	04/19/04
THEA 280	World Theatre	A, D	1, 3, 4, 6	3, 4, 6	05/10/04

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**Course with Successful Five-Year Review, Approved by Senate for General Education with Changes in Categories and Outcomes**

Course No.	Course Title	Previous Categories	Recommended Categories	Previous Outcomes	Recommended Outcomes	Date of Senate Approval
Art 110	Introduction to Visual Arts	A	A, D	1, 4, 6	3, 6	01/26/04

**Courses Withdrawn from General Education List of Approved Courses--Failed to Meet Deadline for Submitting Five-Year Reviews (2)**

Course No.	Course Title	Categories	Date of Senate Action
SOIL 210	Introduction to Soil Science	S (P)	11/10/03
UNIV 403	Weighing the Evidence	B	11/10/03

**Five-Year Reviews in Process (5)**

Course No.	Course Title	Categories	Approved	Previous Outcomes
BIOL 202	Introductory Microbiology	S (N)	Fall 1997	2, 5
BIOL 202L	Introductory Microbiology Laboratory	S (N)	Fall 1997	2, 5
ME 189	Skills for Academic Success	F	Spring 1998	2, 4
MUSC 103	Introduction to Music History	A	Fall 1996	1, 6, 7
WS 350	Perspectives in Women's Studies	A, D	Fall 1997	1, 6 (misabeled 5)

**New Course Reviews in Process (2)**

Course No.	Course Title	Proposed Categories	Proposed Outcomes
CDFS 182	Wellness and Aging	W	2, 7
EDUC 489	Native American/Multicultural Instructional Practices	A, D	1, 2, 3

**7. Other Course Matters:**

PLSC 110: World Food Crops was approved as containing an embedded laboratory with a request that the catalog description be clarified for the 2004 - 2006 (and future) editions.

The Committee agreed that COMM 111: Fundamentals of Public Speaking and COMM 217: Intercultural Communication could be general education courses as honors versions of COMM 110: Fundamentals of Public Speaking and COMM 216: Intercultural Communication. The rationale for this was General Education rule #6, part 'B' which already pertains to similar situations in Physics, Chemistry and Math courses.