

General Education Committee  
**Annual Report**  
**2005-06**

Submitted to:

James Council, President, University Senate  
Eugene Berry, President Elect, University Senate  
Charles Harter, Past Presiding Officer of the University Senate  
R. Craig Schnell, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Michael Robinson, University Archives  
Kristi Wold-McCormick, Registrar and Secretary for the University Senate

Date submitted: May 5, 2006

Submitted by: Members of the General Education Committee

**2005-2006 General Education Committee Members:** David Anderson (student), Eric Asa (E&A), Elizabeth Birmingham (AHSS), Michael Christoffers (AFSNR), Virginia Clark Johnson (Deans), Jeff Gerst (VPAA), Bob Harrold (Assessment), Margaret Lee (PHAR, November, 2005 through May, 2006), Catherine Haugen (Admission), RaNelle Ingalls (Registration and Records), Char Myhre (Library), Doug Rymph (BUS), John Martin (SM), Robyne Williams (HD&E), Kimberly Vess Halbur (PHAR, until November, 2005), and Kristi Wold-McCormick (Registrar).

**Meetings:**

The Committee met 23 times during the 2005 - 2006 academic year: September 7, September 14, September 21, September 28, October 5, October 12, October 19, October 26, November 2, November 9, November 16, November 23, November 30, December 7, January 17, January 31, February 21, March 7, March 21, March 28, April 4, April 18, and May 2. Members of the General Education Committee also met on February 14 with members of the team of Consultant-Evaluators from the Higher Learning Commission during the site-visit associated university-wide reaccreditation activities.

**Election of Committee Chair:**

Michael Christoffers served as convener until the October 19, 2005 meeting, at which time a rotation process began for serving as committee chair for individual meetings. He continues to serve as the focal point for new submissions and for communications received by, or sent from, the committee.

**Subcommittees and their composition include:**

- Humanities, Fine Arts, and Communication: Birmingham, Christoffers, Rymph;
- Science and Technology: Harrold, Martin, Myhre. External member: Montplaisir;
- Social and Behavioral Sciences, Quantitative Reasoning, and Wellness: Asa, Ingalls, Lee, Williams;
- UNIV 189: Ingalls, Haugen;
- Vertical Writing; Birmingham, Wold-McCormick. External members: Brooks, and Sullivan;
- Formative Assessment: Anderson, Asa, Birmingham, and Gerst;

- Review of Computer Usage Integrated into the Major: Harrold, Martin, Myhre;
- Review of Communication Activities in Upper-Division Major Courses: Birmingham, Christoffers, Rymph;
- Review of Personal and Professional Ethics Incorporated into the Major: Asa, Ingalls, Lee, Williams;
- Review of Capstone Experience in all Majors: Clark Johnson, Harrold, Wold-McCormick;

### **University 189: Skills for Academic Success**

The UNIV 189 subcommittee completed an online student survey, and a summary has been developed. The summary will be made available to Provost Schnell, who requested the review of UNIV 189, and to the Director of the College of University Studies. The database will be sorted by college and by classification of the student responding to the survey to provide in-depth information. The college-based summaries will be made available to Provost Schnell, the Director of the College of University Studies, and to the appropriate academic dean.

### **Protocol for 5-Year Reviews was re-established.**

- Proposals are reviewed by the appropriate subcommittee.
- Subcommittees recommend action to the committee as a whole.
- Submissions that receive approval are forwarded to the University Senate for ultimate approval.
- The original proposal is sent to the Registrars Office for committee archives.

**Formative Assessment of General Education:** The graduate student that had initiated work on the project is involved in other activities and is not available to complete the programming necessary for implementation.

### **General Education Integrated into the Major:**

- The Committee will recommend eliminating Category 9 to the members of the University Senate. Computer technology has become integrated into the curriculum.
- Category 10: Communication Activities in Upper Division Major Courses: This activity is integrated into the Vertical Writing Project. The requirement for Category 1: Communication (C) was increased from 9 credits to 12 credits, effective Fall, 2007. This change reflects the incorporation of the upper-division writing activity (Vertical Writing Project, see below).
- Category 11: Comprehension of Personal and Professional Ethics: This activity is in progress.
- Category 12: Capstone Experience: Information received for capstone courses in individual majors has been summarized and will be presented to the members of the University Senate during the 2006 – 2007 academic year.

### **Vertical Writing Proposal:**

The Vertical Writing proposal has been discussed by the members of the University Senate during the following meetings: September 12, 2005, October 10, 2005, November 14, 2005, December 12, 2005, and February 13, 2006 and has been discussed by the General Education Committee at nearly each meeting this academic year. On April 4, 2006, the members of the General Education Committee reaffirmed the expectation that General Education courses remain open to all students and that only other General Education courses could serve as prerequisites.

**Student Petitions:** The Committee received 41 petitions from students for waivers or exemptions. Of this number, 31 petitions were approved and the remaining 10 petitions were either denied or returned for correction and potential resubmission.

**Course Reviews:** The General Education Committee completed action on 30 courses in the 2005-2006 academic year. There are 8 courses that are still waiting for materials to be received, 7 courses that need action to be initiated. And 10 courses whose reviews are overdue. Information is not shown for the courses for which information is overdue.

**Approval for New General Education Course with Outcomes (5)**

Course No.	Category	Course Title	Proposed Outcomes	Date of Senate Approval
ENGL 336	A, G	Literature and the Environment	1, 6	01/23/06
CDFS 182	W	Wellness and Aging	2, 7	03/20/06
ENGL 324	C	Writing in the Sciences	1, 6	03/20/06
ENGL 358	C	Writing in the Humanities and Social Sciences	1, 6	03/20/06
ENGL 321	C	Writing in the Technical Professions	1, 6	05/01/06

**Course with Successful Five-Year Reviews, Approved by Senate for General Education with No Changes in Outcomes (16)**

Course No.	Categories	Course Title	Outcomes	Date of Senate Approval
PHYS 110L	S(P)	Introductory Astronomy - Lab	5, 6	12/12/05
PHYS 120	S(P)	Fundamental of Physics	5, 6	12/12/05
PHYS 120L	S(P)	Fundamental of Physics – Lab	5, 6	12/12/05
PHYS 211	S(P)	College Physics I	5, 6	12/12/05
PHYS 211L	S(P)	College Physics I – Lab	5, 6	12/12/05
PHYS 212	S(P)	College Physics II	5, 6	12/12/05
PHYS 212L	S(P)	College Physics II – Lab	5, 6	12/12/05
ARCH 321	A, G (added)	History of Architecture I	1, 2, 6	03/20/06, 04/10/06
ENVD 101*	A	Environmental Design I	1, 2, 6	03/20/06
ME 189	F	Skills for Academic Success	2, 4	03/20/06
NUTR 240	W	Principles of Nutrition	2, 7	03/20/06
STAT 330	R	Introductory Statistics	5, 6	03/20/06
ARCH 321	A, G	History of Architecture I	1, 2, 6	03/20/06
BIOL 124	S(N), G	Environmental Science	5, 6	04/10/06
HD&E 220	W	Individual and Family Wellness	2, 6	04/10/06
HNES/PSYC 212	B	Psychological Aspects of Drug Use and Abuse	4, 6	05/08/06

\* Formerly ARCH/LA 171: Introduction to Environmental Design

**Courses with Successful Five-Year Reviews, Approved by Senate for General Education with Changes in Outcomes (7)**

Course No.	Categories	Course Title	Previous Outcomes	Recommended Outcomes	Date of Senate Approval
CSCI 114	S(T)	Microcomputer Packages	1, 2, 5	2, 5	11/14/05
CSCI 116	S(T)	Business Use of Computers	1, 2, 5	2, 5	11/14/05
POLS 115	B	American Government	3, 4, 6	3, 6	11/14/05
POLS 220	B, G	International Politics	1, 3, 4, 6, 7	1, 6	11/14/05
ARSC/NRM 225	S(N), G	Natural Resources and Agroecosystems	2, 6, 7	5, 6	* 05/08/06
CSCI 125	R	COBAL Programming	1, 2, 5	2, 5	* 05/08/06
PSYC 111	B	Introduction to Psychology	2, 4, 5	4, 5	* 05/08/06

\* Pending Senate Approval on May 8, 2006

**Courses Withdrawn from General Education List of Approved Courses at the Department's Request (2)**

Course No.	Categories	Course Title	Outcomes	Date of Senate Action
ARCH/LA 172	A	Environmental Design II	n/a	11/14/05
WS 350	A, D	Perspectives in Women's Studies	n/a	11/14/05

**Five-Year Reviews In Progress and Waiting on Materials. (7)**

Course No.	Category	Course Title	Outcomes	Current Status
ANTH 111	B, D	Introduction to Anthropology		
CHEM 117	S	Chemical Concepts & Applications		
CHEM 117L	S	Chemical Concepts & Applications – Lab		
CHEM 121L	S	General Chemistry I		
CHEM 122L	S	General Chemistry II – Lab		
PHYS 110	S (P)	Introductory Astronomy	5, 6	Updated syllabus needed
RELS 100	A	Introduction to Religion		

**Five-Year Reviews In Progress At The End of 2004-2005 With No Action Taken During 2005-2006. (Materials Requested Were Not Provided.) (7)**

<b>Course No.</b>	<b>Categories</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Current Outcomes</b>	<b>Date of Initial Approval</b>
ENT 210	S (N)	Insects, Humans, & the Environment	2, 3, 5	06/24/94
GEOL 105	S (P), G	Physical Geology	2, 3, 5	03/21/94
GEOL 105L	S (P)	Physical Geology - Lab	2, 3, 5	03/21/94
GEOL 106	S (P), G	The Earth Through Time	3, 5, 6	03/21/94
GEOL 106L	S (P)	The Earth Through Time – Lab	3, 5, 6	03/21/94
HD&E 220	W	Individual and Family Wellness	2, 4, 6	Fall 1995
POLS 110	B	Introduction to Political Science	3, 4	04/11/94

**Unfinished Business:**

There are six major items of unfinished business.

1. Elect committee chair (Fall 2006).
2. Complete the review of University 189 and present a report to Provost Schnell. The data from the survey are being summarized by college and classification of the student respondent to provide greater detail for analysis and interpretation.
3. Evaluate Committee Structure – from our September 28, 2005 meeting.
4. Review of Capstone Courses and Courses Integrated into the Major with No Additional Credits Required – from Sept 28, 2005 meeting.  
Present request to the University Senate for deletion of Category 9: Computer Usage Integrated in All Majors and a summary of activities in majors for Category 12: Capstone Experience in all Majors.
5. Complete the analysis of departmental and programmatic activities in Category 11: Comprehension of Personal and Professional Ethics Integrated into Majors and present the summary to the University Senate during the 2006 – 2007 academic year.
6. Resume discussion of Web-based Formative Assessment for General Education courses.