Annual Report (2017-2018)
General Education Improvement and Assessment Committee

Molly Sween, Chair
(Leigh A. Shaw, Co-Chair, Fall 2017)

Committee Members

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<th>Molly Sween, Chair (SBS) – Spring 2018</th>
<th>Kathy Payne, LIB</th>
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<td>Casey Neville, Faculty Senate Liaison, HP</td>
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<td>Jennifer Turley, Education</td>
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<td>Kraig Chugg, Health Professions</td>
<td>Dan Bedford, Ex Officio, Honors Director</td>
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<td>Becky Marchant, A&amp;H</td>
<td>Casey Bullock, Ex Officio, Registrar</td>
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<td>Chris Hoagstrom, S</td>
<td>John Cavitt, Ex Officio, Chair of Curriculum</td>
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<td>Alvaro LaParra Perez, B&amp;E</td>
<td>Jason Barrett Fox, Ex Officio, Composition</td>
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<td>Susan McKay, A&amp;H</td>
<td>Leslie Park, Ex Officio, Student Success Center</td>
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<td>Craig Oberg, S</td>
<td>Eric Amsel, Administration</td>
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<td>Marjukka Ollilainen, SBS</td>
<td>Gail Niklason, Administration</td>
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Accomplishments

The committee had 7 main charges to address during 2017-2018.

1) **Charge 1** entailed staffing all core and breadth area committees, including GEIAC liaisons. This charge is complete and ongoing. Most area committees were active inasmuch as they were involved in the review and approval process for WSU courses in their areas, revised their learning outcomes, and/or were involved in the General Education Revitalization process.

2) **Charge 2** entailed guidance of area committees in the collection and analysis of assessment data and providing an assessment summary to Faculty Senate in Spring 2018. This charge is not complete and ongoing. The General Education Assessment Summary will be submitted by the end of Summer 2018 and presented early Fall 2018 to Faculty Senate by Molly Sween.

3) **Charge 3** entailed providing a summary report to Faculty Senate during Fall 2017 on the assessment data for the WSU program courses taught 2016-2017. This charge is complete.

4) **Charge 4** entailed reviewing and accepting WSU course proposals for courses to be taught in catalog year 2018-2019. One course was proposed and reviewed by GEIAC, UCC, and Faculty Senate during Spring 2018. A second component of this charge was to review the “scaling up” of WSU courses, and this charge is ongoing. This charge is complete and ongoing.

5) **Charge 5** entailed reviewing all Humanities and Creative Arts general education courses seeking renewal. In conjunction with Charge 2 above, this charge is ongoing but anticipated completion will be early Fall 2018. This charge is not complete and ongoing.

6) **Charge 6** entailed GEIAC facilitating Rollout Events during the course of Fall 2017 and Spring
2018. In Fall 2017, GEIAC hosted the Annual Rollout Event titled, “Forces at Play” as well as an additional workshop for Pilot 1 Team Members (see below). During Spring 2018, GEIAC hosted two Rollout Workshops for Pilot 2 Team Members (see below). A second component of this charge was to collect pilot data from faculty willing to try a Big Question and Signature Assignments in their Gen Ed course. The Fall 2017 Pilot 1 Team comprised of 21 faculty across the CORE and BREADTH areas while the Spring 2018 Pilot 2 Team comprised of 38 faculty across the CORE and BREADTH area. Numerous data points were collected from both Pilot Teams and a Summer Assessment Workshop was hosted by GEIAC and attended by ten faculty across the University during Summer 2018. This charge is complete.

7) **Charge 7** entailed GEIAC exploring the General Education Certificate of Completion. A proposal was drafted and presented to GEIAC Spring 2018 but was pulled before the stage of Faculty Senate in order to fully review the implications of creating such a certificate. The charge is not complete and ongoing.

**Committee Meetings & Attendance**

1) GEIAC met 12 times between August 2017 and April 2018. Meetings were well attended and I received regrets and explanations from members who had conflicts on meeting days.

2) Eric Amsel, Gail Niklason, Leigh Shaw, Sylvia Newman, Marjukka Ollilainen, Molly Sween and Rob Reynolds attended the statewide “What is an Educated Person?” conference at the Zermatt Resort (10/2017), with the funding provided by the Associate Provost’s Office.

3) Eric Amsel (and Molly Sween irregularly due to scheduling conflicts) represented Weber State at multiple Board of Regents’ General Education Task Force meetings.

4) Molly Sween regularly attended Curriculum Committee meetings as an ex officio member.

**Outstanding Members**

I am grateful for the service of all members of my committee who attended long meetings, voiced their perspectives, and furthered the important work of GEIAC. GEIAC is a challenging committee assignment, and my members have readily accepted the challenge. In fact, many requested to continue their service to GEIAC as we continue to reform general education. Some specific acknowledgements include my thanks to…

1) Gail Niklason for taking notes and providing minutes for our meetings, which entailed many long and complex discussions. I also appreciate her work to extract, collect, and organize the general education assessment data for me to prepare my report to Faculty Senate every spring.

2) John Cavitt for their assistance in developing policy and procedures to ensure that GEIAC and Curriculum work together with proper Curriculog support in the general education course renewal process, the WSU course approval process, and the review of all courses seeking general education designation.
3) The members of the General Education Revitalization Rollout Team (Leigh Shaw, Colleen Packer, Doris Stevenson, Gail Niklason, Eric Amsel, Sylvia Newman, Gene Sessions, Sandra Fital-Akelbek, Nicole Beatty, Erik Stern, Becky Marchang, Molly Sween, Rick Ford, and Christopher Hoagstrom) for their considerable efforts in helping to define and provide examples of Big Questions and Signature Assignments.

4) The approximately 60 faculty who piloted a Signature Assignment in either/or both Fall 2017 and Spring 2018.

5) Rob Reynolds (Fall 2017) and Casey Neville (Spring 2018) for their support of revitalization and efforts as liaison to Executive Committee.

**Subcommittees or Special Assignments**

The work of members on subcommittees/special assignments was integral to our success.

1) The New Course Proposal Rubric/Guidelines Subcommittee (which comprised of Molly Sween, Eric Amsel, Craig Oberg, and Chris Hoagstrom) met two times during the course of Spring 2018. Among other things, the subcommittee was charged with drafting the evaluation criteria for new Gen Ed course proposals in light of the new program level learning outcomes (GELOs), Big Question and Signature Assignment. The work of this subcommittee will continue into the 2018-2019 academic year.

2) The Diversity Attribute and Certificate Subcommittee (which comprised of Molly Sween, Eric Amsel, Susan McKay, Jenny Turley, Gail Niklason, and Leslie Park) met one time during the course of Spring 2018. Among other things, the subcommittee was charged with collecting data to assess the relationship between course enrollments and diversity designations as well as collecting information on the process of establishing a Gen Ed Certificate at WSU. The work of this subcommittee will continue into the 2018-2019 academic year.

3) University Curriculum tasked GEIAC to form a joint-subcommittee with Curriculum to evaluate the state of prerequisites and upper-division courses in the Gen Ed curriculum (which comprised of Craig Bergeson, Darcy Carter, Nicole Beatty, Peggy Saunders, Leigh Shaw, Molly Sween, and Eric Smith). The committee reviewed other USHE institutions as well as evaluated the pedagogical value of prerequisites and upper-division courses and came to the conclusion that Gen Ed curriculum should be lower-division courses with minimal prerequisites (allowable only for certain disciplines). The information was presented to Faculty Senate Fall 2017 for a vote and both were rejected.

**Objectives to be Addressed/Future Directions**

1) The General Education Revitalization Process was successful in its first year, and GEIAC will use 2018-2019 to continue educating departments and colleges about Signature Assignments and Big Questions. Starting Fall 2019, GEIAC hopes to have nearly complete compliance across the University in that anyone teaching a Gen Ed course will have a Signature Assignment and Big Question in their course.
2) The Diversity (DV) attributes will need to continue to be monitored. If the GELOs are successfully realized through signature assignments, the current DV attributes may be redundant.

3) GEIAC will be involved with Curriculum in the review and renewal of all CORE and SS courses in Fall 2018. Moving forward, GEIAC will discuss the roles and responsibilities of area committees in assisting with the renewal process.

4) GEIAC will work with area committees and Curriculum to support the development, review, and approval of WSU courses. GEIAC will be involved in the review of the assessment data from all WSU courses. GEIAC also will need to consider issues surrounding formally approving the WSU program as it is currently in an experimental stage.

5) GEIAC will create, vet, and implement a New Gen Ed Course Proposal Rubric in light of the GELOs, Big Question, and Signature Assignment. GEIAC intends to have this document approved by early Fall 2018.