

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT & ASSESSMENT
COMMITTEE PROPOSAL TO FACULTY SENATE:
CREATION OF GE AREA COMMITTEES
October 2019

As per **PPM 1-13**, Article B-V, 4.6, the General Education Improvement & Assessment Committee (GEIAC) “shall articulate the mission and goals for the General Education program and University core requirements, and review these on a regular basis. The General Education Committee shall define the standards for the General Education program and oversee the assessment of the General Education program and University core requirements.”

Proposal: To serve its mission, GEIAC proposes the creation of five (5) ad-hoc General Education (GE) Core Area Committees (Composition, American Institutions, Quantitative Literacy, Information Literacy, and Diversity) and five (5) ad-hoc GE Breadth Area Committees (Humanities, Creative Arts, Social Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Life Sciences) to serve as an interface between GEIAC and the many departments which offer General Education courses. The ad-hoc status of the committees means that there will be a designated chair, but the committee members will be identified by chairs of departments in the areas (whom may either review the materials and provide feedback themselves or he/she may assign it to one of their faculty members who has expertise in the requested area), in response to a specific request from the GE Area Committee chair to perform a given function. As GEIAC is now composed of representatives from each Core and Breadth area, the chair of a GE Area Committee will be the GEIAC member(s) [in some instances, there may be Area Committee co-Chairs] representing that Core or Breadth area.

Proposed charge to GE Area Committees: GE Area Committees are charged to:

1. Periodically review the area learning outcomes (ALO) and if necessary, propose changes in line with R470 which must be approved by GEIAC, University Curriculum Committee, Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and Faculty Senate.
2. Review proposed or already existing courses for which a faculty member is requesting a Gen Ed attribute. The chair should report to GEIAC on the feedback from the Area Committee.
3. Provide feedback on assessments of Gen Ed area courses, if requested by GEIAC.

The three charges assure that Gen Ed ALOs, which are outlined in Regents Policy [R470](#), are subject to faculty oversight in how they are defined, assessed, and reviewed for new and existing GE courses in that area. The periodic review of ALOs may be triggered by changes in the R470 or by requests of department(s) that offer courses in

the area. The GEIAC chair will decide whether a review of area outcomes is timely and appropriate. The GE Area Committee chair will be responsible for working with area department chairs to constitute a committee (See GE Area Committee Composition) and vote on acceptable changes. GEIAC will review the recommended changes that have a majority of support in the GE Area Committee and vote to either recommend or not recommend changes to University Curriculum Committee (UCC), who in turn will vote to reject the changes or approve and forward them to Faculty Senate Executive and Faculty Senate.

Proposed or existing Gen Ed courses for which a faculty member is seeking to add a Gen Ed attribute, including WSU courses, will be reviewed by the relevant GE Area Committee(s). The committee(s) will be constituted by the GEIAC member(s) who represent(s) the area(s) for which Gen Ed attribute(s) are being sought, in consultation with relevant department chairs. The goal of the review will be to provide feedback to those proposing the Gen Ed attribute about whether course assessments adequately measure the ALOs and GELOs. The GE Area Committee Chair will report to GEIAC about the status of the GE Area Committee review. GEIAC will vote to either recommend or not recommend the proposal to UCC, who in turn will vote whether to approve and send the proposal to Faculty Senate Executive and Faculty Senate.

Departments or programs regularly collect and biennially report assessment data on Gen Ed courses they offer. GEIAC will review those reports (see CPPM 1.3). A GEIAC representative serving as a GE Area Committee chair will request Area Committee feedback on a given course assessment if the GEIAC chair determines that sufficient concerns are raised about whether the assessment adequately aligns with ALOs. These concerns may be raised by other GEIAC members or other faculty or departments teaching in the Gen Ed area.

GE Area Committee Composition: Each GE Area Committee should have

- One GE Area Chair who is a faculty member from a department that offers a GE course in that area, and serves as a member of GEIAC.
- No fewer than 3 additional faculty members drawn from departments that offer a GE course in that area. If an area includes only one department (e.g., COMP, QL, IL) the committee should be composed of two additional faculty from the department and one faculty from any department that offers a Gen Ed course. The GEIAC Chair will approve the composition of an ad-hoc area committee, although the formation will be the responsibility of the GEIAC committee member serving as GE Area Chair.

Closing remarks: Having GEIAC members serve as chairs of ad-hoc GE Area Committees ensures greater oversight, improved communication, and less organizational complexity between GEIAC and faculty who teach diverse core and breadth courses. Area chairs will be able to bring GE Area Committees together only when necessary and composing them of faculty best equipped to address the issue, making general education administration more responsive and efficient.

Approved and Submitted by:
Current composition of GEIAC (**October 2019**)

Molly Sween – SBS (SS): GEIAC Chair
C. David Walters – S (QL) (on sabbatical Fall 2019, current replacement Shawn Broderick)
Daniel Jonas – A&H (CA)
Matthew Romaniello – SBS (AI)
Brock Adams – EAST
Alvaro La Parra Peres – B&E (AI, SS)
Kiley Spirito – S (PS)
Rieneke Holman – HP
Chris Hoagstrom – S (LS) (on sabbatical Fall 2019, current replacement Craig Oberg)
Miranda Kispert – LIB (IL)
Jenny Turley – ED (LS)
Becky Marchant – A&H (HU)