

March 5th, 2019

Dear Los Medanos College Community,

Please accept this letter as notice of my resignation as General Education Committee Coordinator. I will resign at the end of this spring semester.

I leave this position with a heavy heart. Although I have given this role my best effort, I feel I have not been able to be an effective leader of the committee. I have had trouble figuring out what GE is. This is not because no one knows, too many people think they know and cannot find any agreement. GE is bound up in many different legal restraints as well as old and new politics. I find rather than being an effective leader, I am pulled back and forth in illogical circles that seem to have been around for a long time.

At GE's core, general education offers an amazing promise and hope. I have been moved and inspired by the original GE principles. I can't say it any better than the GE positions paper:

"There is a spirit to general education pedagogy. It is something of a frame of mind, a manner of teaching and planning for instruction, that raises questions, draws learners out, makes connections, interprets, lingers on an observation about the where, or why, who or when of the origination and character of some knowledge, that nudges the learner to use the knowledge and to grow in skill and confidence. This spirit, elusive but essential, and refracted into a multitude of variations by the varying characters of the general education instructors, animates general education pedagogy."

I hope the next Coordinator can tap into that spirit, and find more success in directing the Committee in a constructive direction. I hope in my remaining time as GE chair, I can carry out the wishes of the GE committee and find practical solutions for the smaller practical problems. I would also be happy to transition in a new chair.

This resignation will allow me to focus on projects in which my skills can better serve the college. There are a number of other projects to which I am already dedicated, where I hope to make a positive impact for the students, including my primary assignment as chair of the Philosophy Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Haven". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Edward Haven