

# GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING APRIL 24, 2020 – NOON-1 p.m. on ZOOM

**Members present:** Cindy McGrath, chair; Iris Archuleta, Curtis Corlew, Ryan Hiscocks, Nancy Ybarra

**Guests present:** Josh Bearden, Rikki Hall and Mark Lewis

1. Welcome, public comment and announcements: None
2. Approve agenda: additions, deletions, revision: Approval unanimous
3. Discussion and action on GE position paper *(55 minutes)*

*Action would mean forwarding a revised proposal/s, either as is or amended, to the Academic Senate for its consideration at its April 27 meeting. The proposal/s would substantively revise the current LMC General Education model.*

Cindy reported she had worked with Josh Bearden, as requested at the Wednesday meeting, to integrate their two proposals. She explained what had been suggested and/or revised based on those discussions and is now up for committee discussion:

**Part III.C changes on page 4:** information underlined was added

The general education model at LMC is designed to take an across-the-curriculum approach, and therefore each GE course should contextualize one or more of the GE SLO, in addition to the Universal COOR Core: Reading, Writing and Critical thinking. To ensure equitable distribution of all SLOs across the GE program, one GE SLO will be assigned to a collection of courses in each of six GE groupings based on the Title 5 course requirements list. However, in the event an assigned SLO is not a natural fit for a particular course within a GE grouping, the course author may substitute any other GE SLO to map to.

The committee agreed on the addition.

**Part III.E solid bullet 3 on page 7:** Josh suggested we add this language to the paper based on his Reform No. 6: Any course that receives IGETC or CSU GE transfer approval will automatically be deemed approved as local GE.

Cindy pointed out it was already integrated in different but similar language and that no change was needed:

■ **Current transfer GE courses not considered LMC GE:** All LMC courses that currently satisfy transfer requirements for CSU/UC/IGETC will be folded automatically into the LMC GE requirements package and will be placed into one of the LMC GE groupings: A through E. They will be required to map to the GE SLO assigned to that

grouping, as well as to the Universal COOR Core: Reading, Writing and Critical Thinking SLOs, and to assess them. This change is supported by recent results from the GE Survey: 71.43 percent of the respondents said they either like the idea or would be okay with it. Most of the current transfer courses will be placed in a requirements box with an assigned GE SLO they likely already meet. Any need for minor tweaking to reinforce the contextualization of the assigned SLOs may be done at the course's next regularly scheduled COOR revision.

The committee agreed the current language is sufficient.

**Part IV.D.ii on page 9:** Josh had some concerns since, at other colleges, critical thinking and oral communication courses also count in the category.

*ii. Communication and Analytical Thinking:* Courses fulfilling the communication and analytical thinking requirement generally include oral communication, mathematics, logic, statistics, computer languages and programming, and related disciplines. At LMC only courses that fulfill the mathematics competency are placed in this category. That includes courses in mathematics, ETEC and PTEC.

Josh pointed out that DVC has mathematics comprehension requirement. They remain 18 units because they do not have box E-Ethnic Studies as we do at LMC. So the decision is between providing a mathematics a "box" in GE, or allowing Ethnic/Multicultural studies a GE box. We can't do both and remain at 18 units. He suggested a compromise would be to move math or ethnic studies to a "graduation requirement" rather than GE requirement.

Cindy pointed out that in 2012 the Academic Senate had purposefully reduced the number of units to 18 and identified the extra 3-unit requirement as Ethnic/Multicultural and does not believe they would want to change that now.

Rikki Hall noted that some students come to LMC already having met the Math Comprehension component, so we could create language directing them to take a Communication and Critical Thinking course to fulfill the extra three units in their patterns.

The following revision was agreed upon:

*ii. Communication and Analytical Thinking:*

a. Math Comprehension: LMC courses that fulfill the math comprehension sub-category may be drawn from mathematics, PTEC/ETEC, statistics and related disciplines.

b. Communication and Critical Thinking: Students who have met the math competency may opt to meet the Communication and Analytical Thinking requirement by taking a course listed in this sub-category. LMC courses that fulfill the Communication and Critical Thinking sub-category may be drawn from communication, computer science, English, journalism, philosophy, speech and related disciplines.

**Part VII.B hollow bullet 1 on page 12:** Josh shared his concerns that this section is not in line with the thinking of the Curriculum Committee, which is currently working on establishing a new technical review process as they revise their own position paper.

❑ ***Review course outlines of record:*** In the past the GE Committee has taken a substantive look at all new and revised COORs. While maintaining its purview over the GE program curriculum, this role should be streamlined. In coordination with the Curriculum Committee, a new technical review process should be established to fast-track the approval of all current GE courses submitting COOR revisions with no major changes to CSLOs that map to GE SLOs, or related content and assessments.

Josh said he believes the curriculum committee's new tech review subcommittee could do the review of GE, provided that a member of GE is present on Tech Review and/or curriculum committee. The committee discussed it and agreed on the following new language:

❑ ***Review of course outlines of record:*** In the past the GE Committee has taken a substantive look at all new and revised COORs. This role should be streamlined and assigned to the GE Chair as a formal member of a new technical review team established by the Curriculum Committee to fast-track the approval of all GE courses. The GE Chair should consult with the GE Committee over any concerns about the GE program that arise through this process.

In addition, one or more members of the GE Committee may also be assigned to sit on the Curriculum Committee's technical review team to bring GE expertise to the process.

The committee unanimously approved forwarding to the Academic Senate the new position paper "General Education: A revised GE model" with today's changes incorporated. They also asked Cindy to prepare a one-page cheat sheet for the senate summarizing all the changes to the GE model.

4. Meeting adjourned early at 12:40 p.m. until May 13 at 2:30 p.m.