How We Got Here and Where We’re Going – General Education changes

Design Stage

• In October 2008 in response to EO 1033 and GEAC’s previous annual report, Provost Flake charged a General Education Design Team consisting mostly of faculty to lead the university in a process of rethinking GE.

• After over a year of consultation, a proposed EM to replace 95-05, which was the previous governing document of GE, was considered by members of the Academic Senate

Passage

• Four meetings of EPPC
• Four meetings of Full Senate
• Revisions to the proposed EM were made in EPPC
• Revisions were again made in Senate
  o Both Senators and other campus leaders made suggestions that were adopted
• An Addendum was included that outlined how initial implementation should occur
• The proposed EM was passed by the full Senate unanimously on February 10, 2010

Major Components of Approved EM 10-01

• GE now has a campus articulated GE mission, vision, and student learning outcomes (SLOs). All GE courses must identify one GE SLO.

• No fundamental change to underlying structure of GE: Areas A, B, C, D, E continue. Nine upper division units.

• American Institutions courses incorporated into GE, US History in Area C, American Government in Area D.

• Lower Division Arts, Humanities, six units of Social Sciences, Lifelong Learning, and upper division courses of Arts/Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences General Education courses would be organized in 7 – 10 thematic Pathways.
• Foundation Courses include lower divisions Sciences (both with labs), Oral communication, Written communication, Critical Thinking and Math

• All Pathways have to be associated with at least one Foundation course so that students can be introduced to the Pathways early in their career.

• Students, including transfers, need to take the 9 units of their upper division GE in a single Pathway.

• Students do not have to take courses in a single Pathway in the lower division.

• If, however, they complete 9 units of a Pathway in the lower division (which can include 3 units from an associate Foundations course) along with the upper division 9 units, the students will earn an interdisciplinary GE minor.

• Native students are required to take four Writing Intensive courses. Transfer students need to take one WI. This requirement replaces the 1500 word requirement of all GE courses.

From EM 10-01:
Students must take at least 4 GE courses designated as Writing Intensive. The freshman course in Academic Writing and the capstone course count as two of these courses. Transfer students who have completed their lower division GE at another institution may fulfill the GE writing requirement by taking one Writing Intensive course in the Upper Division. These courses must have writing assignments in which students have the opportunity to improve their writing through a process of multiple drafts and editing, using effective writing pedagogy for a disciplinary area. Because these courses require additional work and pedagogical expertise on the part of the instructor, they will typically have no more than 20 students, unless the department can effectively demonstrate that they meet the Writing Intensive requirement using alternative classroom structures.

• All students must take a capstone, either a major capstone or a GE capstone, that is also a writing intensive course.

Implementation Stage (see details below)

• An Implementation Team was created in February 2010 and was tasked with working on the next stage including, deciding the 7 – 10 Pathway Concepts with the elected body of GEAC.

• 10 Pathways were selected
  o Ethics, Justice, & Policy
  o Gender & Sexuality
  o Diversity
Pathway Coordinators were elected by Senate (only one election was contested), 2/24/11

Pathway Coordinators facilitated interested faculty in selecting the courses that would become part of the Pathways.

With the assistance of Pathway faculty, the Pathway Coordinators submitted pathway proposals to GEIT & GEAC, May 31, 2011

The combined committees considered whether new classes fit the requirements for GE including the new courses in requested Areas/Disciplines (task done only by elected GEAC), ensure that all courses identified at least one GE SLO, assist with the development of Writing Intensive courses and Capstones (which faculty still have the academic year to work on), and review requests for U.S. Diversity and Global Cultures status.

Basically, GEIT/GEAC’s job was to say whether what was proposed met the requirements for the system’s and campus’s GE programs. Now it is handed to us . . .

**Senate – the Second Round**

- Senate is considering *not* whether the Pathways meet GE requirements but rather whether they will work as minors.

- The process, as is true with all curriculum proposals, will start in EPPC potentially as early as September 15th.

- EC has scheduled more committee meetings this semester than usual to help us consider all the Pathways.

- The catalog deadlines have been extended to include these GE changes. All Pathway Minors would need to be through the Senate process the November 3rd meeting.

**Resources**
EO 1033

EM 10-01

GE Design webpage

GE Implementation webpage
Design Team
CONSULTATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

Student Survey
AS Student Leaders
Academic Senate
Alumni Survey

Council of Academic Deans
Proposal Sent to all Campus

EO 1033
Campus GE Reports

Provost’s Charge and Creation of Design Team 11/08

Student Affairs Directors
Resident Advisors

Full Academic Senate 12/09-2/10 4 meetings

President Signs EM 2/11/10
Implement

University Advisory Board
GEAC
Library Faculty

Campus-wide Fora: 4
College Meetings of Chairs: 12
Dept Meetings: 18

Implementation Team Activities:

Two Campus-wide fora, March 9, 10, 2010

GE “Mixer” April 4, 2010, attended by 150+ faculty

Open Pathways workshop, April 26, 2010

Open Foundations workshop, May 7, 2010

Pathway Outreach fora, August 30-September 3, 2010

Review of Pathway proposals, September 2010 including survey of students and faculty/staff regarding Pathway preferences

Campus-wide forum on Pathway selection, October 11, 2010

Pathway Selection report, November 15, 2010

GEAC/I Team members serve as Pathway Facilitators until Pathway coordinators elected by Senate, 2/24/11

Pathway coordinators and facilitators hold periodic meetings throughout Spring 11 semester to “populate” Pathways with courses.

Pathway proposals due to GEAC/I Team May 31, 2011

June 6-27, 2011, GEAC/I Team review of Pathway proposals, Foundation courses, new GE courses

End of June, 2011 Pathway feedback reports to coordinators

Monthly updates of Department Chairs throughout Spring 10, AY 10-11

Periodic updates of Council of Academic Deans

Weekly meetings of GE Implementation Team, GEAC (15 faculty, staff and student rep)

Facilitation of