

**MINUTES**  
**General Education Committee**  
**January 15, 2026**  
**1:15-2:45pm**  
**Montecito Room**

**Members present:** Michelle Hardley (Secretary, Registrar), Heather Keaney (Professor of History), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Director, Library & Information Services), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Russell Smelley (Professor of Kinesiology), Telford Work (Chair, Professor of Religious Studies)

**Absent:**

**I. Prayer – Russell Smelley**

**II. Approval of the minutes from December 9, 2025**  
The minutes were approved.

**III. New Committee Chair Election**

After the WSCUC visit the chair will change to Heather for the remainder of the Spring semester.

**IV. The GE Committee Meeting with the WSCUC Accreditation Team**

WSCUC is coming for their on-site assessment visit in two weeks. Tim Loomer has added a meeting to our schedule on January 27 to meet with the committee. Tatiana reviewed the composition of the WSCUC team and noted that she may or may not be in this meeting, pending the preferences of the visiting team.

Tatiana will upload the 2016 WSCUC report from their last visit, which includes their recommendations. We should read through this document in advance of our meeting with the team. We should also read through the document Tim Loomer submitted to WSCUC in advance of this site visit.

The 2026 report to the WSCUC team highlighted the work we have done:

- Separating the Global Awareness and the Diversity Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILO).
- Adding the Justice, Reconciliation and Diversity GE area to strengthen the Diversity ILO.
- Moving the Compassionate Action GE to be a graduation requirement

They may also ask questions about our assessment cycle for the GE. We assess each GE area every 7 years on a rotating basis. Exploring the Physical Sciences and Exploring the Life Sciences will be reviewed this year. Next year our assessment efforts will focus on the three Religious Studies courses.

**V. Exploring the Physical and Life Sciences Syllabus Audit – Follow Up**

Tatiana connected with all of the faculty members noted in our last syllabus review. All faculty members have agreed to change their syllabi per the recommendations from the GE Committee.

**VI. Oral and Written Communication Follow Up**

This semester we need to do some work in pre-approving as many course options as possible for the new Oral Communication and Written Communication GE requirements, which take effect with the entering class in Fall 2026.

The plan is to send the new GE certification information for Written Communication to all of the current WSI courses that had a focus on writing. We will note that their class is being certified for Written Communication and ask them to update their syllabi and assignments to be in line with the new certification criteria. The new certification criteria are closely aligned to the former Writing Intensive certification criteria so this should not be an undue burden for the faculty. If they would like to also apply for Oral Communication then they need to submit their course for consideration using the traditional approval pathway.

We do need new Oral Communication courses. Tatiana will send Michelle a list of the current courses that have Speech Intensive designations so she has that on hand.

Telford will send an email to Elizabeth asking for time in the next faculty meeting to present the Oral Communication requirements and describe the process of applying for Oral Communication GE credit. He will also send an email to the current WSI faculty with the Oral Communication information in the event that they would like to also apply for the Oral Communication GE credit.

**VII. Exploring the Physical and Life Sciences Assessment Plan**

We need to establish who will be the lead assessment coordinator for the Exploring the Physical Sciences and Exploring the Life Sciences GE areas. We also need to begin work on an assessment plan.

It was determined that Russell Smelley will serve as the coordinator for the assessment and that we will likely assess these two areas together since their certification criteria are very similar.

The first step in finalizing the plan will be for Heather Keaney to email the departments who regularly teach courses in these areas. She will work to determine:

- If they would prefer to have the assessment combined together or run as two separate assessment projects.
- If they are satisfied with the current language in the GE Combined document or if they would like changes to be made in advance of the assessment project.
- What kind of assessment is important to them (structure type and topics they would like to cover)
- Whether they would like to repeat the same assessment method and tool as last time (see Steve Roger's 2017 assessment report). If not, they would need to propose an alternate method or tool in the next 6 weeks.

Michelle will send Heather a list of the faculty who typically teach courses in these areas. She will send out the email and copy Russell.

## **VIII. Other Business**

None at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley