

MINUTES
General Education Committee
March 12, 2026
1:15-2:45pm
Montecito Room

Members present: Michelle Hardley (Secretary, Registrar), Heather Keaney (Professor of History), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Telford Work (Chair, Professor of Religious Studies)

Absent: Jana Mayfield Mullen (Director, Library & Information Services), Russell Smelley (Professor of Kinesiology),

I. Prayer – Telford Work

II. Approval of the minutes from February 26, 2026

The minutes were approved.

III. HIS-149 – Russian Culture from the Golden Age to the Revolution - Add to Common Inquiries: Thinking Historically

The GE Committee discussed the proposal.

The course was approved. This approval will be effective in Fall 2026.

IV. SOC-180 – Human Services and Social Policy – Add to Common Skills and Emphases: Oral Communication

The GE Committee discussed the proposal.

The course was approved. This approval will be effective in Fall 2026.

V. ENG-133 – American Writers: Special Topics U.S. Latino/a Literature – Add to Common Skills and Emphases: Justice, Reconciliation and Diversity

The GE Committee discussed the proposal. A new course will need to be created for this subtopic as ENG-133 is a topics course within the department and topics courses cannot have individualized GE credit by subtopic.

The course was approved. This approval will be effective in Fall 2026.

VI. COM-128 – Facilitating Ethical Communication – Add to Common Skills and Emphases: Oral Communication

The GE Committee discussed the proposal.

The course was approved. This approval will be effective in Fall 2026.

VII. Revised CS-130 – Collaborative Software Engineering - Add to Common Skills and Emphases: Oral Communication

The GE Committee discussed the proposal.

The course was approved. This approval will be effective in Fall 2026.

VIII. COM-123 – Multimedia Journalism – Add to Common Skills and Emphases: Written Communication

The GE Committee discussed the proposal.

The course was approved. This approval will be effective in Fall 2026.

IX. COM-123 – Multimedia Journalism – Add to Common Skills and Emphases: Oral Communication

The GE Committee discussed the proposal.

The course was approved. This approval will be effective in Fall 2026.

X. The PRC's Response to the 2025 GE Annual Assessment Report

The committee discussed the PRC's response to our annual assessment report.

The main focus of the discussion was around the feedback related to cultural literacy. There may be some confusion here, as the certification criteria for the GE category do not call for cultural literacy, but instead calls for an “understanding of the relationship between some of the practices and perspectives of the culture studied”. It appears that the assessment instrument the Modern Language department used in their assessment has a component assessing cultural literacy, and it was a deficiency in the students' scores in this measure that the PRC was responding to.

The question moving forward is whether we want to continue using this assessment tool in future assessment efforts (is it measuring what we need it to measure for our certification criteria?) or do we want to change the certification criteria to cover cultural literacy (which is a higher bar than we currently have and might remove some of the current curricular options)? It may be too much to ask for both language competency and cultural competency in one course, especially in the two beginning

semesters. The Modern Language department has talked about making adjustments to the GE requirement to look for a level of competency versus just one semester in a language, but to date no official proposal has been submitted.

The GE Committee would like to have a meeting with the Modern Language department to clarify what they would like to do with the certification criteria and the current assessment tool that is used.

The GE Committee will also communicate with the PRC that their feedback and recommendations in this area may reflect a misunderstanding the certification criteria for the GE requirement and the assessment tool used. The certification criteria are looking for an understanding of practices and perspectives of the culture, not cultural literacy, which is a much higher bar.

Heather and Tatiana will work to invite the Modern Language department to a future GE Committee meeting and to craft a response to Anna Jordan and Sarah Skripsky (from the PRC).

XI. Senate's Response to the Department of Sociology Request

The Sociology department's concerns were discussed at Senate. Senate decided that no changes would be made to our current practice, but that Carmel Saad could be consulted as needed on proposals where there may be concern about adequate coverage for the JRD GE certification criteria.

Since the original concern was submitted to the GE Committee, Senate asked the committee to send a response. Tatiana drafted a letter summarizing the decisions of Senate on behalf of the GE Committee for review. Minor changes for clarification were made to the draft by committee members.

Tatiana will send the letter to Blake Kent.

XII. Exploring the Physical/Life Sciences Assessment

This will be discussed in a future meeting.

XIII. Further Request for the Written Communication GE Area

This will be discussed in a future meeting.

XIV. Other Business

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley