

MINUTES
General Education Committee
April 22, 2025
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Montecito Room

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

Absent:

I. Prayer – Telford Work

II. The minutes from April 8, 2025

The minutes from April 8, 2025 were approved with one minor correction.

III. POL-010 –American Government – Add to Common Skills and Emphasis: Justice Reconciliation and Diversity

This item will be discussed in a future meeting in Fall 2025.

IV. GE Senior Student Survey

Senators discussed and determined there would be some value in sending any feedback received in the survey to the faculty and/or department chairs so they were aware. Kim Denu, however, does not want to receive any of the feedback shared in the report.

The largest demographic completing the report was Kinesiology majors. Some of the consistent feedback received was that athletes should not need to take the Fitness for life course. Telford was interested in analyzing the data more to see how many of these responses were from athletes and Kinesiology majors. Since Kinesiology majors were overrepresented in the sample, this should be taken into account when interpreting the data and applying it to any next steps (including proposals for curricular changes). He envisions this data analysis to be a good summer project.

It was also noted that Fitness for Life had a special emphasis on resiliency this year and utilized a curricular program out of Pepperdine as its methodology. We won't see the results of this effort in senior surveys for another few years.

The committee discussed the implications of reporting the data as-is. At minimum we would need to take out the names and ID numbers for the students, but this level of change would not impact the data collected. Removing the faculty mentions is a manual task and will change the data.

The underlying concern is that this data will be part of a number of reports. It will also be sent to the Steering Committee and all administrators. Senate will also review the report and it will be sent to other relevant departments and committees before being submitted to WSCUC as part of our self-study in November. It could also be used by Senate and the GE Committee in curricular discussions and possible curricular modifications. It was noted that, if needed, the raw data could be shared as an appendix.

This year we are focusing on the WSCUC report and visit, any curricular changes would be considered in the 2026-2027 school year. Given this fact, it might be premature for the GE Committee to make recommendations on changes since we don't have all of the data we need for such a proposal and WSCUC may have their own recommendations as part of their work.

The GE Committee decided not to propose a change to the PEA requirement but instead to consider other methods by which a student might complete the requirement (e.g. fit bit tracking devices etc.).

V. The JRD Language Review Task for Fall 2025: Telford, Tatiana and Jana

Telford gave a summary of the conversation on this topic at Senate. Meredith was also able to give voice to the concerns of the department in the Senate meeting and the GE Committee's concerns with the way the JRD GE was crafted and how it was discussed with the faculty who approved it.

Tatiana would appreciate having these concerns in writing so that the GE Committee has something concrete to work with for any possible revisions to the certification criteria.

A working group was suggested as a way to address the issues so that we can determine who should have oversight or voice within these categories and requirements.

Sociology has, as part of their disciplinary apparatus, a focus on race, it is a core part of the discipline. Other disciplines can engage in the topic as well, but it would be in a way that is in alignment with their disciplinary perspectives. There is also an

opportunity for others to also engage in sociological concepts, but that doesn't mean they would engage in the exact same way that a Sociologist would. Sociological tools can be used to engage with this area, but there are other disciplines that engage with groups and differences within groups. The GE area is not exclusively about race and racism, it is about justice and reconciliation and diversity which are broader concepts to consider.

The GE Committee was not in favor of setting of a quota where a majority of the classes for any GE category would come from any specific discipline. The original idea of the Justice, Reconciliation and Diversity area was that it was interdisciplinary in nature, not rooted in one department. What the committee is asking for in a proposal is to see both the theological apparatus and the sociological apparatus being used in the course to engage with this GE area.

VI. Sections for the WSCUC Self-Study Report

The GE Committee spent some time reviewing the following reports:

Self-Study report focused on Diversity

- The report looks accurate – there were some small edits made for clarity.

The GE report

- An overall suggestion was made to remove language in the report that is leading WSCUC to a conclusion that our data doesn't necessarily support.
- Additional edits were made within the document and sections were highlighted that still needed revision.

A working group may be needed this summer to work on the final document from the GE Committee so that it is ready in time. The goal is to be around 3-4 pages because we are responding to one of WSCUC's recommendations to assess our GE program.

VII. Final Writing-Intensive/Written Communication GE Report

This item will be discussed in a future meeting in Fall 2025.

VIII. Other Business

None.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Hardley