

MINUTES
General Education Committee
September 30, 2025
1:00pm-2:30pm
Montecito Room

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

Absent: Jana Mayfield Mullen (Director, Library & Information Services),

- I. **Prayer** – Tatiana Nazarenko
- II. **Approval of the minutes from September 16, 2025**
The minutes were approved.
- III. **POL-010 – American Government – Add to Common Skills and Emphasis: Justice Reconciliation and Diversity**
Telford has not yet had a conversation with Tom Knecht regarding the current syllabus for the course. He will have this conversation and encourage Tom to resubmit the proposal.
- IV. **COM-087 – Writing for the Media – Add to Common Skills and Emphasis: Oral Communication**
Telford talked with Paul Mena regarding the word count for this course and the need for the assignments to reach at least 4,000 words to be certified for this general education category. Paul sent in a revised syllabus with additional information on the word count, but it does not yet hit the minimum needed. Telford will reach back out to Paul and encourage a resubmission of the syllabus.
- V. **TA-140 – Race and Gender on the American Stage – Add to Common Skills and Emphasis: Justice Reconciliation and Diversity**
This item will be considered in our next meeting.
- VI. **HIS-180 – Age of Islamic Empires – Add to Common Inquiries: Thinking Historically and Common Skills and Emphasis: Oral Communication**
The committee discussed the proposal. All of the required elements have been accounted for.

The committee voted to approve the course, effective Spring 2026. In Spring 2026 the course will have Thinking Historically credit. In Fall 2026 it will also have Oral Communication credit as this will be a new requirement for students entering in Fall 2026. Heather does not want the Oral Communication added now as this may dissuade current students (who do not have an Oral Communication GE requirement) from enrolling in the course.

VII. Presentation at the October 2 Faculty Forum

The committee discussed the draft of the slideshow and data used for the October 2nd Faculty Forum.

Edits were suggested to the draft slide show to increase clarity in each slide and prepare faculty for the table discussions regarding the survey data and the GE mission statement. A number of these edits were made to the draft document within the meeting. There was also discussion about how to structure the full Faculty Forum time, on the prompt to give faculty in the table talk discussion time and how best to collect data from the faculty on their table's discussion.

The main goal of the forum is to review the senior survey results and give space for the faculty to engage with the information. A secondary goal is to inspire the faculty to consider how their own courses fit within the general education program and the ways in which they can effect change in their own classes to better meet the goals within the GE mission statement.

Telford will work with Laura and Tatiana on edits to the slide show based on the committee's feedback in preparation for Thursday's forum time. He will also work on finalizing the draft of the handout for the table discussions (to both guide the discussion and also serve as a place to record the feedback from each table). He will send revised versions via email to the committee for further feedback/suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Hardley