

Challenge to the September 4, 2024 Senate General Education Report

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Input from over 40 faculty that signed the challenge petition

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Procedural Issue - Committee Work in the Summer

Background

The majority of Senate committee work occurs during the academic year.

Observations

1. The General Education committee met over the summer of 2024 to review courses.
2. The April 2024 General Education committee report lists 15 members.
3. The September 2024 General Education committee report lists 15 members, with 2 vacancies including the student representative.
4. Slide 6 of 18 of the September General Education report, shown below, lists only 8 members.

Courses

Committee (8 members of existing committee; willing to work over summer)

Concerns

1. Many faculty work or travel over the summer, as plans that are intentionally made outside of the nine-month contract.
2. Students may not be present on campus over the summer.
3. Only 8 of the full complement of 15 General Education committee members were present for important discussions and decisions made over the summer.

Recommendation

If the September 2024 General Education report is repealed, the challenge group recommends that all work be done during the academic year and with full committee participation.

Report Issue – A Committee of 8 People Determined 30% of the Courses for 12,000 Students

Background

A typical bachelor's degree consists of at least 120 hours.

$36 / 120 = 30\%$ of all classes that are taken by students on campus.

Observations

1. The September 2024 General Education report fixes 30% or more of the student credit hours.
2. The September 2024 General Education report indirectly fixed approximately 30% of the faculty workload on campus.
3. Students might not have been included in the selection process.

Concerns

1. A small, 8-person committee should not make these campus-wide policy decisions.
2. All programs should have an opportunity to promote their classes and gain faculty.

Recommendations

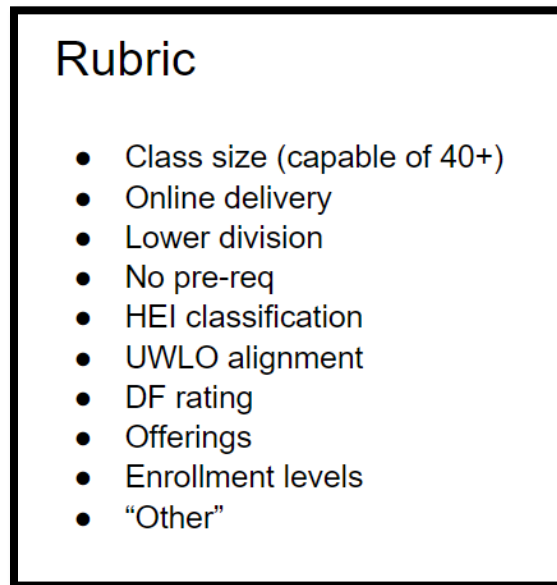
If the September 2024 General Education report is not accepted, the challenge group recommends that the General Education committee:

1. Include more faculty senate representatives.
2. Guarantee participation of student representatives.

Report Issue - Selection Criteria for General Education Classes

Background

Slide 10 of 18 of the September 2024 General Education report lists the following selection criteria:



Observations

During the Summer 2024 meetings:

1. Ohio Transfer 36 (OT 36) is listed above as HEI, but was not strictly followed:
 - a. FSCI is not in OT 36 but was included as a YSU NS General Education course.
 - b. PHIL 2619 is not in OT 36 but is listed as a YSU MATH General Education.
 - c. CMST is listed as "optional" in OT 36, but "highly recommended" in YSU General Education policy.
2. Classes were evaluated by committee members that were not experts in the fields of study.
3. Syllabi were not consistently used as part of evaluation.
4. Rubric data was not presented to the senate body, either before or after the vote.

Concerns

1. While there is no motion to remove the FSCI, PHIL, or CMST classes above, the Senate General Education policy does not give all programs an opportunity to participate.
2. Rejected programs were not given feedback on how to improve on a subsequent submission.

Recommendations

1. All classes and programs should have an opportunity to be included or highly recommended in General Education policy.
2. If the September 2024 General Education report is repealed, the challenge group recommends that the evaluation criteria be revised.

Report Issue - The Number 75

Background

The total of 75 classes was part of the February 2024 Senate General Education Policy.

Observations

1. The General Education policy is unclear if Honors classes are counted as part of the total.
2. About 175 programs were revised in Fall 2023 academic year. However, many of the General Education electives included in the Fall 2024 policy are no longer valid.
3. Some of the removed classes are high school CCP offerings.

Concerns

1. Revising the General Education policy a second time in one year is repetitive work for the Program committee.
2. Adding another General Education elective may cause programs to increase away from the current target of 120 hours.
3. Complicated curriculum rules are hard for faculty and advisors to explain.
4. Complicated curriculum rules are hard for the Degree Audit team to program into Banner and Penguin Pass.
5. High school students that take a CCP class may come to campus and find that the class did not count for degree.

Recommendations

1. The General Education committee or Provost should discuss the reasoning behind the General Education classes to be limited to 75.
2. If the September 2024 General Education report is repealed, the challenge group recommends that the General Education committee revise the restrictions placed on degree-specific math, natural science, and other classes.

Policy Issue - Restriction of New General Education Classes

Observation

Slide 4 of 18 of the September General Education presentation repeats the February 2024 policy on the creation of new classes:

- Initially, there shall be a maximum of 75 courses in the General Education portfolio
 - Courses can be added only if the maximum number has not been reached
 - New courses can be added if former courses are removed

Concerns

1. It is unlikely that a General Education class will fall below enrollment values of 40 students per year, as 12,000 students can take only 75 approved classes.
2. New classes evaluated in Summer 2024 did not have D, F data, scored lower on the rubrics, and were precluded from inclusion on the final list of 75.

Recommendation

The General Education committee should revisit the policy and allow the creation of new classes.

Questions and Discussion

Motions and Recommendations

1. Motion 1:
 - a. In the October 2024 meeting, the Senate body votes to repeal the General Education committee report from September 4, 2024.
 - b. Anonymous votes for the challenge above are tallied electronically.
2. Motion 2:
 - a. All votes occur before 5 pm.
3. General Education Committee Recommendations:
 - a. The General Education committee reconvenes with more members and guarantees student representation.
 - b. The General Education committee completes the work in the academic year.
 - c. The General Education committee revises the process and selection criteria used for the 75 classes.
 - d. The General Education committee clarifies how to add new classes with a collegial path to success.