Recommending the Creation of a General Education Oversight Committee
Ad-Hoc Committee on the Development of the General Education Oversight Committee
October 5, 2021

Introduction

On April 27, 2021, the Faculty Senate resolved to create an ad hoc committee to consider and

We further recommend that the GEOC develop standing rules for its own operation, to be approved by the Faculty Senate and published on the appropriate webpage, as the Membership and Elections Committee (M&E) does. These standing rules should clearly and explicitly define the terms used to describe various elements of the General Education program (SLOs, categories, etc.), and detail the number, structure

probably seek realignment, but for which categories is uncertain. Substantial work will need to be done to create clear guidelines for the categories that are not associated with COMAR mandates. If the anticipated workloads of different subcommittees will be significantly different, one solution may be to vary the size of the subcommittees accordingly.

However the Advisory Subcommittees are initially structured, once the guidelines for all General Education categories have been established and most existing courses realigned, we recommend that the GEOC propose a revised subcommittee structure to the Senate for approval, to reduce the number of seats that will need to be filled on an ongoing basis.

It should be emphasized that these are   subcommittees: the GEOC itself is responsible for establishing guidelines and processes, and approving courses for inclusion in the General Education program.

Information Literacy SLO would add a Library representative and only include one at-large member. This model is seen as ensuring more equitable representation, while providing some opportunity for flexibility through at-large seats. There is some concern, however, that Units with fewer faculty may have difficulty filling the number of seats required.

The third model we considered, which was inspired by the processes of blind review used by IRB committees or editorial boards, has much that faculty find attractive. Any Faculty who Á] • Z   š } ‰ Œ š]] ‰ š •   Œ À] Á] v P ^ } v š v š   Æ ‰ Œ š _ Á } µ o • [one required for election; some suggest the Faculty as a whole would approve candidates, others that the GEOC would. The number of reviewers for a General Education category would, ideally, be very large; three reviewers would consider each proposed course, recommending it for approval (or not) to the GEOC. The inclusiveness and flexibility of this approach do much to recommend it, but a number of elements of this model have not yet been explicitly defined, such as how work on the creation of guidelines and support for assessment would be carried out. Ther   Œ   } v   Œ v •   } µ š š Z   ( ] v] š] } v v • o š] } v } (^ } v š v š   } v š v š] } µ • v   u] P Z š o   š } ^ š Œ   ] š] } v o _   Æ ‰ Œ š • Œ   š] v] v P of administrative support is anticipated as well, for coordination and recordkeeping. Despite these issues, our committee recommends that this avenue be further explored by the GEOC as a possible post-transition model for its Advisory Subcommittees.

Another point to be considered, which was introduced by some faculty during the feedback period, is whether it would be desirable to have student, external, or community representatives on the Advisory Subcommittees. While the demands on a student member of the GEOC might be prohibitively high, those for an Advisory Subcommittee might be more reasonable, allowing meaningful student input at this level, particularly during the development of the guidelines for alignment. While external members of, for instance, program review committees provide significant advantages, in the case of these General Education oversight bodies they might   • v •] o µ š] v P & µ o š Ç Œ • ‰ } v •]] o š Ç (} Œ ^ o] • [

Further Recommendations

While the GEOC, once it has been established, should develop its own procedures and processes, our committee does have some recommendations for its consideration.

First, it must be made clear that during the transition period, the GEOC will approve the