

**GEC Interim Report  
AY 2017-2018  
Delivered 5 April 2018**

Work to date:

To date, the committee has approved GE status or Perspective designation to 30 course, and approved changes to four immersions.

Very few courses were rejected for GE status or Perspective designation. One immersion from SOIS has been held up since it is a single, 9 credit course and policy will need to be changed to accommodate it. It has been temporarily approved by the provost.

We started the year with two charges:

General Education Committee Charges for 2017-18

GEC 1        Audit General Education courses campus wide, to assess whether i) Perspective courses include assignments/activities by which faculty can assess respective student learning outcomes, ii) whether General Education courses include assignments/activities by which faculty can assess student learning outcomes in Communication, and Critical Thinking, and iii) whether general education courses have registration restrictions.

GEC 2        Determine whether it would be beneficial to have a protocol for awarding a variance to courses that are ill-suited to assessment of the student learning outcomes listed in the Essential Elements category (such courses might include large-enrollment courses in chemistry and biology), and if so, design and adopt such a protocol

In the fall we picked up a third charge, revising the GE Framework to accommodate a proposed Bachelor of Architecture degree. The GEC recommended the following changes to the GE Framework to the senate to accommodate the new degree and any others that might come along in the future (and they were passed by the Senate 16 November):

<b>General Education Framework</b>	<b>BS</b>	<b>BFA</b>	<b>AAS</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>All Other Baccalaureate Degrees</b>
First-Year Writing	3	3	3	3	3
Perspectives	24	15	15	15	15
Immersion	9	9	0	0	9

General Education Electives*	24	3	6	12	3
Minimum Total	60	30	24**	30	30

Charge 2: After considerable discussion on the subject, the committee came up with the following protocol for waiving assessment of one of the two Essential Elements of the GE SLOs.

#### ESSENTIAL ELEMENT EXEMPTION PROTOCOL

##### Step 1: Departments Request Exemption

Departments can request in writing an exemption from one category of the Essential Elements (Communication OR Critical Thinking.) The request should outline the rationale for an exemption. The exemption applies only to the Essential Element Student Learning Outcomes and not to Perspective Student Learning Outcomes.

##### Step 2: Exemption Approval

GEC will review and approve, if applicable, an Essential Element Exemption in conjunction with the normal general education course approval process.

The following criteria will not be considered as a factor in the exemption of a general education course from the Essential Elements:

- Course or section size
- Anything related to individual faculty (workload, teaching or assessment methods)
- Mode of instruction

Charge 3: We are still in the process of completing our third charge, and it will not be finally completed until the Fall. We have decided to start with a pilot study using only one department (CLA-Sociology and Anthropology) to work out any kinks in the process.

### **GEC Charge, The GE SLO Course “Audit” Pilot**

#### **Step 1: Data Collection**

GEC works with the registrar to get a list of all GE courses offered by SOCI/ANTH department

GEC works with registrar to determine the best method for obtaining this information for all RIT departments offering GE courses

GEC works with the registrar to obtain data which further defines the scope of the problem:

- The number/percentage of courses which are not aligned to the current framework (not mapped to at least one of each Essential Elements outcomes)
- The number/percentage of GE courses which are aligned to more than 5 GE SLOs
- The number/percentage of GE courses which are aligned to GE SLOs which have been removed from the framework

Timeline- April 2018

### **Step 2: Pilot with SOCI/ANTH Department**

GEC meets with SOCI/ANTH to determine the following:

- Overall Course List: Does SOCI/ANTH agree with the list of GE courses? Are there courses which are not being offered?
- Essential Elements Mapping: Focus will be placed on review of Essential Elements outcome mappings. At this time the department can elect to make changes to the Essential Elements mappings, determining which outcomes fit best with the course curriculum and remove alignments that do not make sense. If courses exist without essential element mapping, mapping will be completed.
- Mapping to outcomes which no longer exist in the framework will be removed

\*The SOC/ANTH department will have resources available as they complete this work including a list of current course mapping to GE SLOs , GE SLO Rubrics, the ability to consult with GEC, and the Office of Educational Effectiveness Assessment.

GEC works with registrar to make requested changes to SOCI/ANTH GE SLO courses

Timeline- May 2018

### **Step 3: Develop Process and Implementation Plan**

After the pilot, GEC will prepare instructions/guidelines so each department can go through the process. GEC will develop a project timeline and make recommendations for the best way to complete the work based on an estimate

of how long it will take departments to do this work, what other information or resources might be needed, and what the consequences of changes will entail for departments and the university.

Timeline- Fall 2018