

MEMORANDUM

19 May 1993

TO: Ronald M. Horwitz  
Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs  
for the Steering Committee

FROM: Kevin Grimm, Chair  
General Education Committee

RE: Annual Report for 1992-93

This year's members of the Committee were Sheldon Appleton (ex officio), Harvey Burdick, Addington Coppin, Steven Gilbert, Anahid Kulwicki, and Michael Smith. Genevieve Long was the assigned Student Congress representative after January, but repeated scheduling conflicts prevented her from attending meetings.

The full Committee worked throughout the year on formulating an assessment plan for General Education courses. At the same time, to carry out the mandated review of General Education courses in the Arts and Social Sciences categories, the Committee divided into two subcommittees (Arts: Appleton, Burdick, Kulwicki; Social Sciences: Coppin, Gilbert, Grimm, Smith).

Members of the Committee began meeting with faculty in the various General Education Field Categories early in the Fall semester to solicit ideas on assessment. Throughout the year the Committee discussed various approaches and specific instruments, gradually refining the plan into increasingly specific terms. The Committee continued to contact colleagues in the field categories to apprise them of the Committee's decisions and to solicit further feedback. The chief goals of the Committee's approach have been to create an assessment plan that is, at once, 1) sensitive to the various goals of the different courses involved; 2) uniform and consistent across the field categories; and 3) capable of being implemented within the constraints of current faculty workloads. The scope and size of the General Education Program create difficulties rather different, in many respects, from those faced by individual departments. The Committee is satisfied that the proposed plan (attached) will prove a successful system for assessing the General Education courses.

Though not General Education courses, per se, the required Rhetoric courses, RHT 150 and 160 (formerly RHT 100 and 101), as courses which serve a parallel function to General Education courses in Oakland's overall curricular design, were felt to be appropriately included with the General Education courses for the purpose of assessment. The Chair of the Committee met with members of the Rhetoric faculty, and all agreed to assess RHT 150 and 160 with the General Education Assessment Plan.

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On the recommendation of the subcommittee for courses in the Arts Field Category, the committee re-approved all courses currently offered for General Education credit in that category. On the recommendation of the subcommittee for courses in the Social Sciences, the committee re-approved all Anthropology, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology courses currently offered for General Education credit. Materials for Economics courses were not received by the end of the Winter term. The Economics courses will be reviewed prior to the end of Fall term 1993.

In addition to the review of existing General Education courses the Committee approved for General Education credit two new courses: Art History 104, Introduction to Asian Art (Arts Field Category); and English 112, Literature of Ethnic America (Literature Field Category).

### Looking Ahead: 1993-94

In academic year 1993-94 the General Education Committee will coordinate the implementation of the assessment plan. At this time, the Committee recommends that the Senate adopt the proposed plan for assessing General Education courses. This will enable the Committee to have the plan operating in the Fall of 1994.

In 1993-94 the Committee will also proceed with its customary reviews of General Education courses, beginning with Economics courses (as noted above) and then continuing with courses in the following field categories: 1) Language; 2) Mathematics, Logic and Computer Science; 3) Natural Science and Technology.