

General Education Com
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Office of the Provost

May 1, 1991

To: Provost Keith Kleckner and the Senate Steering Committee
From: Alice Horning, Chair, on behalf of the General Education Committee
Re: Annual report, 1990-1991

In response to your request for a report on the work of the General Education committee this year, I offer this summary. Our membership this year consisted of Professors Renate Gerulaitis, Douglas Hunter, Charles Marks, Clementine Rice, and Anandi Sahu. Associate Provost Appleton attended committee meetings as an ex officio member of the committee, and Ms. Carolyn Riley joined us as a student representative beginning in January. The committee has been extremely diligent and consistent in attendance and effort, and we have been able to accomplish mandated reviews of the Language, Natural Science and Technology and Mathematics, Logic and Computer Science field categories, as well as discussion of new courses for the program and the assessment project. Following is a brief summary of the committee's deliberations.

As my memo of March 18, 1991 indicates (see Appendix A), the committee's review of the courses in the Language, Natural Science and Technology and Mathematics, Logic and Computer Science field categories led to reapproval of all courses currently on the list of those meeting General Education requirements. These field categories will be reviewed again in three years.

In addition, the committee made the following changes to the array of courses in General Education: in the Arts category, THA 268 and 269 were replaced by THA 201, Theatre History; in Western Civilization, HST 292, History of the African-American People was added; and in the Mathematics, Logic and Computer Science category, STA 226, Applied Statistics was added. The committee also reviewed a proposal to add SCN 114-115 to the Language category; this proposal failed to win committee approval.

In connection with the committee's responsibility for the program generally, we invited two guests to come for open discussion of the General Education program: Mr. Pat Bennett representing the Academic Advising Steering Committee, and Ms. Elizabeth Millwood, Assistant Registrar for Records, whose office conducts transfer credit evaluations. Discussion with Mr. Bennett included advisers' concerns about scheduling of General Education courses, Saturday course offerings, and catalog applicability for General Education courses. These matters were discussed and Mr. Bennett was given helpful information on the questions raised (see minutes of February 18, attached as Appendix B, for details).

Ms. Millwood joined the committee for a discussion of transfer credit evaluation (see minutes of March 11 for details). In general, the Records office completes transfer credit evaluations for courses in General Education, and when questions arise, individual departments are consulted. In this context, a memo from Professor Stokes, Chair of Art and Art History, was discussed, and a particular course referred to her for review was considered. The committee and Ms. Millwood agreed that evaluation of transfer courses was mostly an academic matter and that our judgements about courses offered for transfer credit ought to follow the criteria as stated for OU courses. Faculty expertise is sought when Records staff are unable to make an independent judgement, and faculty should make their decisions on a substantive appraisal of course content. Both Ms. Millwood and the committee found the discussion informative. (See memo to Professor Stokes, attached as Appendix C, for further information.)

Finally, the committee spent some time discussing various other issues including the assessment project. After some extended discussion of a proposal from Professor Appleton concerning courses in General Education addressing ethnic diversity, the proposal was referred to UCUI. The committee also discussed cross-disciplinary courses, and the chair issued a call for proposals for cross-disciplinary courses. No proposals were offered this year, but the committee hopes some may be forthcoming for next year. In the context of considering STA 226 for addition to the program, the committee discussed the concept of allowing students to meet General Education requirements by taking courses for which General Education courses were prerequisites. After some discussion and consultation with department chairs and Ms. Millwood, the idea was abandoned.

The General Education committee met once with members of the Assessment subcommittee of UCUI (see minutes of October 5, 1990), and discussed the assessment project at various points over the year. At the meeting of April 1, following Professor Appleton's report of the latest information from North Central, we agreed that the General Education committee should form a subcommittee of its own to examine assessment for the General Education program next year. The committee will assume responsibility for assessment of the General Education program, with a subcommittee under Professor Appleton's guidance focusing exclusively on this matter.

As you can see, the General Education committee has accomplished considerable work this year. Continuing members Gerulaitis, Marks and Rice as well as Ms. Riley, look forward to lively discussion of the assessment issue and to reviews of courses in the International Studies and Western Civilization field categories in 1991-92. I have found my role as chair of this committee particularly rewarding due, I believe, to the intelligence, effort and care for the program on the part of committee members. Thank you.

MEMO

March 18, 1991

To: Deans, Directors, Department Chairs, Academic Advisers

From: Alice Horning, Chair, General Education Committee *Alice Horning*

Re: Changes to General Education courses for the 1991-92
academic year

The purpose of this memo is to bring you up to date on the work of the General Education Committee of the University Senate this year, and to inform you of changes to the array of courses that will appear in the new undergraduate catalog for 1991-1992. This year, the committee reviewed courses in three field categories: Language, Natural Science and Technology, and Mathematics, Logic and Computer Science. All courses in these three field categories were re-approved for General Education and will remain in the catalog listings for three years.

Following is a list of other changes to the program:

Arts:

THA 268 and 269 were deleted from the list by department request.

THA 201, Theatre History (a new course), was added to the Arts category.

Western Civilization:

HST 292, History of the African-American People, was added to the Western Civilization category.

Mathematics, Logic and Computer Science:

STA 226, Applied Statistics, was added to the category.

The committee continues to be willing to entertain proposals for interdisciplinary, cross-listed courses for the General Education program. Such proposals will be considered next year.

cc: Provost Keith Kleckner
General Education Committee