

MINUTES
General Education Committee
February 26, 2026
1:15-2:45pm
Montecito Room

Members present: Michelle Hardley (Secretary, Registrar), Heather Keaney (Professor of History), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Director, Library & Information Services), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Russell Smelley (Professor of Kinesiology), Telford Work (Chair, Professor of Religious Studies)

Absent:

I. Prayer – Russell Smelley

II. Approval of the minutes from February 12, 2026
The minutes were approved.

III. MU-040 – Musical Theatre – Add to Working Artistically

The GE Committee discussed the proposal. For Working Artistically credit, at least one additional production assignment would need to be added. The instructor may want to also consider providing feedback to students and requiring multiple drafts of student work. With the addition of an additional production assignment, the distribution of the final percentage of the grade to each assignment may need to be evaluated. The faculty member should also consider how the use of AI may impact students' creative work.

The course was approved on the condition that one additional production assignment is added. If the faculty member agrees, then this approval will be effective in Mayterm 2026.

IV. MA-180 – Senior Seminar – Add to Common Skills and Emphases: Oral Communication

The GE Committee discussed the proposal. The proposal and connections to the GE certification criteria were very clear.

The course was approved. This approval will be effective in Fall 2026.

V. CS-130 – Collaborative Software Engineering - Add to Common Skills and Emphases: Oral Communication

The GE Committee discussed the proposal. It would be helpful to see some changes to link the outcome language to the assignments. It would also be helpful for students to add a timeline into the syllabus so they can see the trajectory of the course and assignments within the syllabus.

The course was approved on the condition that the instructor of the course makes the changes noted above. If the faculty member agrees, then this approval will be effective in Fall 2026.

VI. Exploring the Physical/Life Sciences Assessment

This will be discussed in a future meeting.

VII. Discussion on the Email from Sarah Skripsky on a Cap of 25 on Written Communication courses

Tatiana shared that she received a request from Sarah Skripsky to have a cap of 25 on any course that is approved for the Written Communication GE requirement. Sarah also requested that classes over 25 would have to submit a persuasive plan for how they intend to adequately support student writing development with a larger class size in order to be approved. Tatiana consulted with Eileen, and current financial constraints prevent the implementation of this suggestion.

The GE Committee feels like this request could put departments in a bind, especially in large majors, if we don't give the GE credit which might be needed/earned and that it could create enrollment issues if we reduce the caps on larger classes. There was also a concern raised about the GE Committee determining the appropriate caps for courses.

It was noted that in this transition, departments may be rubber stamping their existing WSI courses to be Written Communication courses without thinking through what a change in the GE could mean for the number of Written Communication courses they need moving forward. A conversation with department chairs on the implications of this GE change may be a way to indirectly have them rethink whether high cap courses need to be approved for Written Communication moving forward.

Heather will reach out to Elizabeth to see if she can have some time to present the idea of re-evaluating where Written Communication could exist within the majors (versus wholesale approving what is there) at the next full faculty meeting.

VIII. Senates Response to the Department of Sociology Request

This will be discussed in a future meeting.

IX. Other Business

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley