

**General Education Committee Report to the Faculty Senate**

**Person Submitting the Report:** Dr. Tamer Balci, Committee Chair

**Date of Report:** April 26, 2024

**Committee Name:** General Education Committee (GEC)

**Committee Purpose:** The purpose of the General Education Committee is to review and make recommendations on matters of importance to the general education requirements for undergraduate students.

**Responsibilities:** The General Education Committee shall review and make recommendations on the curriculum, assessment, and other matters of importance to the general education requirements.

**Committee Chair and Members (with departments/colleges)**

<b>College / School</b>	<b>Representative</b>
College of Liberal Arts	Dr. Tamer Balci, Committee Chair
College of Business and Entrepreneurship	Dr. Andrew Anabila
College of Education & P16 Integration	Dr. James Whittenberg
College of Engineering & Computer Science	Dr. Isaac Choutapalli
College of Fine Arts	Dr. Brendan Kinsella
College of Health Professions	Dr. Upal Roy
College of Sciences	Dr. Mkhitar Hobosyan
School of Nursing	Ms. Susamma Thomas
University College	Ms. Erika Perez
Division of Student Success	Dr. Jonikka Charlton, Ex-Oficio
Division of Student Success	Mauricio de Leon, Administrative Support

**List of Meeting Dates**

As of the date of this report, nine meetings of the General Education Committee have been held and one is pending. All meetings are documented with minutes and held via Teams.

<b>Committee Meeting Dates</b>
October 11, 2023
October 26, 2023
November 9, 2023
December 6, 2023
January 24, 2024

February 29, 2024
March 28, 2024
April 11, 2024
April 19, 2024
May 2, 2024, Pending

**List of issues committee addressed related to its purpose.**

Through its March 28th meeting, the General Education Committee has considered 6 unique proposals. The following table includes a summary of the proposals reviewed through March by college and proposal type.

College	Proposal Type	Number of Proposals
College of Business and Entrepreneurship	Delete Course	1
College of Liberal Arts	Change Course	4
Honors College	Change Course	1

**Summary of discussions on each topic**

All general education core course proposals were reviewed and discussed according to the following areas:

- 1) **Core Component Area Definition:** How well does the proposed course meet the core area definition?
- 2) **Core Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):** How well is the course designed to help students meet the required core student learning outcomes? What assignments, activities, projects, and/or pedagogical approach are specifically designed with these SLOs in mind?
- 3) **Value Added:** To what degree does the proposed course offer something significantly different than other courses in the same core area?
- 4) **Assessment Plan:** To what extent will the assessment plan help faculty to improve teaching and learning of the core SLOs in the course?
- 5) **Impact on Other Programs/Departments:** To what extent will including the course in this core area have an adverse impact on other programs/departments, and do they have adequate resources (current or committed by the dean) to offer the course on a reasonable rotation?

Changes to courses include: (a) changes to course title, (b) changes to course descriptions, (c) changes to course pre- or co-requisites, (d) change to schedule type, (e), changes to contact hours, (f) changes to course repeatability, (g) change to add/remove course from core curriculum, and other changes.

In addition to the work described above, The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board requires UTRGV to regularly assess our Core Curriculum courses and submit reports on schedule to SACSCOC. Students must be assessed for their attainment of six Student Learning

Objectives (SLOs) in Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Teamwork, Social Responsibility, Personal Responsibility, and Empirical & Quantitative Skills. Each year, every program or department on campus that teaches courses in the core conducts assessment, and there is a university-wide focus on 2 of the 6 SLOs (so that all 6 SLOs are covered across 3-year cycles according to the schedule [HERE](#)). The GEC in turn conducts annual meta-assessment—i.e., an assessment of how well individual programs and departments are conducting their own assessments.

- After a 2-hour calibration session, committee members worked in teams to conduct meta-assessment of the assessment reports for all of the core courses responsible for teaching Teamwork and/or Empirical and Quantitative Skills, providing feedback and suggestions for improvement to the assessment coordinators of each program or department.
- Next year (AY 2024-2025), the GEC will conduct meta-assessment of Personal Responsibility and Social Responsibility.

General Education Committee meeting agendas and minutes may be provided as requested.

**Summary of motions or recommendations approved, with vote totals (if available)**

After review by the General Education Committee, 5 of the 6 proposals for additions and deletions to core courses were approved. Please refer to minutes for a count of motions and committee votes.