



Date: December 15, 2014

TO: Su Swarat, Director of Assessment and Educational Effectiveness

FROM: Alison Wrynn
Director, Undergraduate Studies & General Education

RE: Program Performance Review: General Education

I have reviewed AVPAP Nwosu's response to the General Education Program Performance Review. In general, I agree with his comments on the process and its outcome. I would like to highlight a few areas below.

First, I would like to acknowledge the scale of the General Education program at CSUF. Not surprisingly, as General Education makes up 51 units of the degree program for undergraduate students, we offer a lot of class sections in General Education each semester.

I would encourage the campus to examine what types of courses other CSUs use to meet the General Education categories that CSU, Fullerton has very few courses in (potentially creating bottlenecks) and see if there are any other appropriate curricular offerings on our campus that could be included in these categories. In particular:

- C.4 [Origins of the World Civilizations—HIST 110A]
- D.2 [World Civilizations and Cultures—HIST 110B]
- D.4 [American Government—POSC 100]

The campus may determine that this is the optimal way of meeting the system mandates on General Education; however, a review of other CSUs, and the ways in which they meet these categories should be undertaken. Departments should be at the center of these discussions. In addition, departments should review their offerings in General Education on a regular basis to make certain they are able to provide an optimal number of course offerings for both their majors and general education students. If the campus decides to allow students to “double count” General Education courses for their majors this will provide another chance for departments to review their degree programs to adjust them, as needed, for students in an environment that allows double counting.

As the review of General Education notes, the GE Pathways is an opportunity to create “coherence” in our General Education program. However, if we are to continue with GE Pathways we must collect data to assess the efficacy of our program. We are in the initial phases of data collection for the 2014-2015 pilot of General Education Lower Division Pathways. As we move forward into 2015-2016, we will have the opportunity to determine if Pathways are an appropriate and effective program on our campus. If so, after consultation

with the campus community, we will be able to move forward with the program.

As recommended in our external review, as well as in the Dean's review, assessment of General Education will be undertaken with the assistance of the Assessment Work Groups that have been established in each College. This work should begin in the spring 2015 semester and will focus on not only the campus based General Education Learning Outcomes but also the core competencies as well as competencies "at or near graduation" as required by WASC.

The General Education Faculty Coordinators have been essential in the maintenance of the Pathways program this year, and will continue to be so over the course of the next year. In addition, the implementation of Student Success Centers for advising in each college is a great opportunity for the campus to focus on integrating General Education and degree program advising instead of creating artificial barriers between the two. As we begin to work on creating a new General Education website in the Office of Academic Programs over the course of the spring 2015 semester, one of our goals will be to not only provide clarity for students and faculty on General Education but to also provide them with a sense of the integration of General Education and the degree programs. Our office looks forward to working with the campus community as we move forward.