

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

In Fall 2017, in the wake EO 1100 revised and EO1110 revised, the Academic Senate of CSUF convened a GE Task Force to analyze the key ideas gathered at the Academic Senate GE Retreat and chart a course of action to encode these commitments in our GE package. What follows is a summary of the parts of the report the CSUF Task Force submitted to the Senate in May, 2018 that we feel are pertinent to the discussion today.

BREADTH IS ESSENTIAL AND MUST BE RETAINED

- Double-counting threatens breadth
- Students should be able to explore diverse disciplines and discover new interests, talents, and perspectives through their GE coursework
- Breadth may come in the form of students choosing courses outside of their discipline that cultivate unique interests, or in the form of students choosing courses around coherent themes
- We need to protect academic diversity across all colleges and departments
 - *POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:*
 - Built-in Breadth - Mandate students complete GE through coursework from colleges outside their major or completion of at least one interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary course.
 - Promoting double majors and minors - These options should be promoted to students as a mechanism to provide breadth to students and support smaller academic units.
 - Quality Academic Advising - promote exploration and discovery through culturally competent, equitable, and inclusive advising
 - Effective communication of the value of GE - Students need to be informed about the role of GE as an enhancement to their majors and personal growth. This goal might be achieved through a marketing campaign
 - Menu-ize GE: Create subcategories within the existing GE course offerings to enhance organization and facilitate student navigation of options [*The CSUF GE Task Force has explored this idea and identified logistical hurdles making this suggestion impractical*]
 - Development of an Explore Core to encourage exploration and discovery - Development of new, cross/multi-disciplinary courses [*CSUF GE Task Force members have spearheaded the development of multiple pilot Explore Core courses across the campus. There is interest and motivation on the part of faculty*]

GE SHOULD PROMOTE GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

- GE should introduce students to their rights, responsibilities, and identities as informed and engaged citizens from local, regional, national and global perspectives
- As a result of their GE coursework, students will have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to fully engage in their post-graduate lives as informed and literate local, regional, national, and global citizens
 - *POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:*
 - Overlay X: New overlay organized around the themes of global awareness and citizenship

GE IS A FORM OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

- GE is the place where students, who may have been pigeonholed into or out of certain disciplines in High School, can identify their true potential
- Our GE curriculum should reflect the strengths and needs of our local demographic
- The quality of the GE curriculum is important and must be maintained to best inculcate essential skills, citizenship, and happiness
 - *POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:*
 - Overlay Z: Revise and re-certify Overlay Z to better address historical and contemporary relations of power, privilege and oppression based on *race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, class, and/or ability*
 - Build on our communities - Develop courses that include service-learning and community-based/place-based learning

CONSIDER INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES AND SUPPORT

- Consider innovations that would allow more sustained discussions about GE
 - *POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:*
 - Alternate funding models - The existing funding model creates competition between academic units for limited dollars. The potential exists for reconsidering how resources are distributed to promote collaboration instead of competition
 - Dedicated Director of General Education - Appoint an individual to serve as a liaison between faculty and administration to enhance the coherence of the GE program
 - Curricular Development Support: Provide administrative support for curricular and professional development

FUTURE ISSUES AND ACTIONS

- Evaluate the role of a First-Year Experience as part of the GE curriculum
- Begin a campus-wide discussion about establishing a requirement for breadth either within GE or as a University requirement [*The Task Force has initiated campus-wide Open Forums to provide a venue for faculty and student to express their thoughts about GE at CSUF*]
- Discuss the potential role of a Director of GE heading a collaborative effort to develop, implement, and promote GE through a shared process of governance
- Develop, administer, and analyze an alumni survey specific to GE