
Chancellor's General Education Advisory Committee

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Attendees: Mark Van Selst, Eniko Csomay, Kevin Baaske, David Barsky, Julie Glass, Gary Laver, Susan Schlievert, Stephen Stambough, Michelle Bean, Regina Eisenbach, Jenni Robinson, Leonor Aguilera, Raul Arambula, Melissa Lavitt

Visitors: Robert Collins (ASCSU Chair), Karen Simpson-Alisca (CSUCO), Quajuana Chapman (CSO), Aisha N. Lowe (CCCCO, Vice Chancellor), Claudia L. Pinker (CSUCO), Thomas Horvath (CSMB), Andrew Lawson (CSMB)

The meeting began at 11:04 am

1. Chair's welcome and introductory comments
2. Agenda was approved with no modification
3. January and February minutes were approved unanimously (with one abstention for the February minutes) with a minor change (March Dropbox – approved minutes are marked FINAL)
4. Segment Reports of items relevant to GE
 - a. CCC System (including Articulation Officer report)
 - i. Ethnic Studies (ES) requirement is being worked on
 1. Implementation features will be up to the districts
 - ii. CCC system is in the process of revising standards, e.g., adding language that calls for an ES graduation requirement, including the handbook (in part for better alignment with the CSU)
 - iii. Working with discipline faculty to update the C-ID descriptors
 - iv. Articulation Officers are waiting for ES reviews to be complete - acceptance before they can do catalog change for 2021; interested to see how IGETC will address ES

Discussion:

- Now that the CSU has changed Title V, all ADTs will have to include ES into CSU GE. When does that take effect vis-à-vis AA/T and AS/T degrees? How exactly will it work with students starting an ADT before? What will completing all GE mean? → Catalog rights to degree programs.

- How will GE be controlled? What about catalog rights? Campuses will need to be clear on which package is being submitted → ES will be required of students starting this fall.
 - CSU will allow backdating of 2022 GE review for ES to apply to the prior year for the same course; also, all campuses will have the ability for students to take their ES course by the student's second year (i.e., in time to complete the degree program).
- b. CCC Academic Senate (Michelle)
- i. Upcoming resolutions for debate at ASCCC:
Guided Pathways funding, cultural competency requirement for faculty evaluations, resources for ethnic studies, transfer, distance education guidelines, and preferred names and pronouns in digital environments.
 - ii. Ethnic Studies DIG registration:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ethnic-studies-discipline-input-group-dig-meeting-tickets-141062735439>
 - iii. ASCCC anti-racism paper: https://www.asccc.org/sites/default/files/Anti-Racism_Education_F20.pdf
 - iv. Equity-driven systems paper:
https://asccc.org/sites/default/files/Equity_Driven_Systems.pdf
- c. CSU Office of the Chancellor, Senate, Students
- i. ES course submissions for GE Area F are being reviewed as part of the annual GE review process (staff + faculty review)
 - ii. It is planned to allow backdating of Ethnic Studies GE approvals from 2022 catalog to apply to 2021 offerings of the now-approved course.
 - iii. Catalog rights: The default for incoming transfer students is that the catalog year is originally set to the year in which they transferred to CSU; Peoplesoft will be set to be able to review catalog rights so that students will be more likely to be assessed by the correct GE package (i.e., Catalog rights will follow students per GE version).
 - iv. In the process of working on IGETC fix to accommodate ES – hope to have a resolution soon. Title V language (re: IGETC) to be submitted to the CSU Board of Trustees for May consideration.
 - v. Berman legislation re: transfer proposal (AB928) common GE LD transfer pattern; a pathway through UC, CCC, etc.
<https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB928/2021>
<https://a24.asmdc.org/press-releases/20210310-assemblymember-berman-introduces-legislation-transform-college-transfer>

Discussion:

- Is the ES "backdate" one year only and for ES only? → yes.

- AB 298
 - a. FGA (ASCSU committee on fiscal and government and affairs) is also looking at AB928 – with the caveat that legislation can change dramatically from when first offered. AA (ASCSU Academic Affairs) has it on their agenda for tomorrow (March Plenary).
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB928
 - d. Academic Senate CSU
 - i. A lot of continued interest in Ethnic Studies
 - ii. Academic Senate is looking at the description of Math Standards in IGETC and in CSU GE Guiding Notes (see items 9 & 10)
 - e. California State Student Association
 - i. No report
- 5. AP world History: Modern
 - a. Inclusion into credit by exam (title change or?) [This change already existed within the CSU credit by exam documentation; did not exist within 2021 IGETC documentation]
 - i. <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/transfer/Pages/advanced-placement-ap.aspx>
How does this get updated for the CSU? → AP notifies the CO – “we have a new/substantively updated exam”, then it goes to GEAC, consult with faculty with disciplinary knowledge, and then it gets modified.
- 6. Credit for Prior Learning (update) (Melissa)
 - a. Edits to the CSU policy on credit for prior learning (originally EO 1036):
 - i. Opened the option for graduate education as well (not just UD)
 - ii. Veteran students are most frequent users of the policy – moved out the section to stand on its own for military (refreshed and in their own section now)
 - iii. Related resource around Title 5, WASC, and limits as to how many credits can be brought in (accumulating credit is not what we want – instead, we need to see what the credits are that could be aimed at graduation goals)
 - 1. Strengthened language (must or shall are used now) to come up with policies that deal with this – stronger guidance to campuses
 - iv. Affirm system wide GE for CPL and campuses will make it acceptable to programs, etc.
 - v. Policy revisions/proposal will be in the GEAC dropbox

Discussion:

- CCC credit for prior experiential learning will be posted on the CCC transcript as a particular course (with notation of credit by evaluation, etc.).

noon – 1 pm Lunch

7. Chancellor's Exemption Request (Monterey Bay) (1:15 time certain)
 - a. Describe what the request is and the logic of the request:
 - No engineering on campus – this is the first one
 - Justification: The program proposal brings together the mechatronic curriculum to meet ABET, GE, and University requirements
 - Extensive lower division units required within the major (69 units LD units) runs into high-units for the overall major.
 - CSU:MB intends to meet the critical thinking requirements distributed within the program as A3 as it is to be embedded across the Engineering curriculum

Discussion:

- This is an exemption request to allow the campus to admit transfer students; this is who the exemption request will impact
- CSU:MB will need to edit the curriculum map to better reflect transfer expectations
- Can you explain how this applies to transfer students? How do you know what classes they have taken that satisfy the requirements? (There is no ADT for them) → They will end up with A3 requirement (as they may not know what they want to do yet) → CSU:MB Worked closely with colleges in the region to develop a 2+2 pattern that will work for these students.
- What is Mechatronics? → Mechanical, systems, and computer engineering together (Chico, Channel Islands have these programs)
- On the curriculum map – in particular for critical thinking – is there a document that shows what happens in these classes, i.e., how critical thinking is realized? Argumentation? Where is that expressed? → CSU:MB: None of the engineering courses exist yet – assessing the SLOs, understanding that students are constantly exposed to these throughout the curriculum. A3 GE outcomes will be assessed.
- On the curriculum map it shows A3 being introduced in the introductory mathematics coursework, this seems unusual vis-à-vis the A3 description for CSU GE → CSU:MB is not relying on the intro math course to meet A3.
- Which 'course' is labelled as A3 or is there no course identified where the program will engage with GE assessment? (maybe ENGR 370)? → [note CSU GE policy states the exemption will apply to students at degree completion so this is technically not required] What's the timeline? → Projecting three years before we put it in the catalogue → Campus GE and Curriculum committee process have supported the proposal
 - There are always concerns when a program meets a GE requirement entirely within its program given that the diversity of experience and perspectives of other students is inherently limited by this.
 - Is there evidence of problem solving/critical thinking being applied outside of engineering?
- For the waiver/exemption request what is the sequence of events? → the order is: Campus and senate approval, Provost approval, then GEAC recommendation followed by the Chancellor's decision.

- What does a Chancellor's exemption mean? What does it mean to BOTH request a waiver AND have a program that still meets the CSU GE outcomes that are being asked to be waived? Does a waiver anticipate that the exempted GE outcomes will still be met? → (see item 8)
- What is the distinction between waiver and exemption? → waiver for the admission requirements (in particular for transfer students); (also, see item 8)
- Has the campus endorsed this A3 Waiver? → CSU:MB: yes
- What are the next steps re: program submission (where does this request fit into the sequence of seeking program approval?)
- If A3 outcomes are being assessed, then there must be a point in course x, y, or z in the program at which point the lower division A3 requirements are assumed to have been met. Where is this point?
- Outside of GE committees it appears that critical thinking is often treated as if it inherently exists in, and appropriate outcomes are produced by, all programs. Why don't all programs qualify for an A3 waiver? → the spirit of GE requirements are different and lower division GE should be seen as foundational for later development within the program (i.e., GE and program outcomes should overlap, esp. for golden four).
 - The way the curriculum map is laid out right now has calculus and physics listed as introductory A3. This could open a door that we may not want to open
- What is the criteria by which we resolve this exemption request? → it is a high unit major – that's the overarching problem that CSU:MB is trying to solve via this request → The tension is between “will these students get A3 skill sets” and the unit reduction → Is this proposal substantively different from other prior approvals that have been granted exemptions for A3?
- We are evaluating a promissory note – a pattern of coursework that would be comparable to other programs that have yielded an exemption is likely but is underspecified at this time. → We have no prior experience with this type of early program development.
- Can we do a tentative yes? We want to focus on achieving outcomes for the students in the program.
 - We are fooling ourselves when we approve these exemptions vis-à-vis actually achieving the full set of GE outcomes.
 - Do we want to see the A3 assignments that hit outcomes/assessment? → no, this is the role of the Campus committee, but they've already signed off on the exemption request
- What does waiver/exemption mean? (maybe we should discuss this first)
- Many Engineering programs have already been awarded A3 exemptions

After a break to consider item 8

MOTION/ACTION: That GEAC will accept (i.e., recommend to the Chancellor) the request from CSU Monterey Bay that the MECHATRONICS program will meet A3 outcomes by the conclusion of the program and thus the "waiver" of the A3 requirement for incoming transfer be authorized for admission to this program.

VOTE: 10-0-0 [recommend approval of request]

8. What does an “exemption” request entail? What are the campus options and what does CSU CO authorization mean for the campus?
- <https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/8919100/latest/> → CSU General Education Breadth Requirements. Section 5 (Exceptions), part (b)

In the case of high-unit major degree programs, the chancellor may grant exceptions to one or more requirements for students completing the particular program. Such exception must be approved at the campus level prior to initiating a request to the Chancellor's Office. A full academic justification shall be submitted to the executive vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, who shall submit his or her recommendation and the campus recommendation (along with all relevant documents) to the chancellor.

- The list of high unit exemptions (<https://www2.calstate.edu/attend/student-services/casper/Pages/high-unit-majors.aspx>) currently posted includes areas A3, C1, C2, E and others; These go beyond the ‘golden 4’ admission eligibility constraints (oral comm, written comm, critical thinking, Math/QR) implying ‘exemption’ rather than ‘exemption from admission requirements’
 - Current practice has been to award ‘admissions eligibility’ for transfer students rather than the full exemption that could be inferred from the above language (exclusion of the GE Breadth element). The current GEAC committee, when considering exemption requests (which have really been admission eligibility exemption requests), has sought confirmation of:
 - Campus GE committee support for the request,
 - The inclusion of the outcomes in coursework patterns (even if not within a single course),
 - Program participation in GE assessment for the GE element in question.
9. IGETC Standards subcommittee meeting (March 11, 2021)
- GEAC walked through the draft updated IGETC Standards 2.0 document with particular focus on:
 - Math Standards (CSU Math Council Request) – substantive revisions suggested by the subcommittee in response to CSU Math Council Request were largely endorsed with some additional feedback provided.
 - Math Standards revisions to eliminate the language about the statistics pilot (ending in 2019) was supported.
 - ESL – substantive revisions suggested by subcommittee in response to ESL request were discussed.
 - “extra” laboratory unit(s) only for science was confirmed as intentional; any cohesive three-unit course (including with or without lab) could qualify for any area of GE – the prohibition is on separate stand-alone one-unit courses to aggregate to three units.

- v. Language relevant to inclusion of Ethnic Studies into IGETC is still in development (outside of GEAC) but will eventually require a CSU BoT change to the Title 5.

10. Math Council Request re: Purpose and Content Statement in CSU GE Guiding Notes area B4 (Claudia Pinker with time certain 2:15pm)

- a. Request that representatives of the Math Council (Barksy, Glass) meet with CSU CO consultant (Pinker) to perfect updated wording → CSU GE Guiding notes are updated during the summer after the conclusion of the annual GE course submission evaluations have been completed.
- b. Academic Senate CSU will be considering a resolution in support of the CSU Math Council request at its upcoming plenary session (March 2021)

11. Joint meeting (BOARS / CSU GEAC)

- a. Holding off on pursuing a possible meeting pending ICAS/senate request for action

12. Ethnic Studies

- a. Assessment of submitted Course Outlines of Record (COR) is progressing
- b. Concerns about, and needs for, a one-year, one-time only “backdating” of next year successful submissions re: Area F course approvals were discussed.

13. CSU GE Questions (“questions from the field”)

- a. Is the 3-4 units for Physical/Life science (the +1 unit for lab) still permissible under current GE policy? (referral re: IGETC originally) → confirmed yes
- b. Can a campus ask for a variation in GE unit distribution by request (was previously allowed then excised in EO1100 revision in 2017) (referral re: discussions on exemption requests and the need to include prerequisites in catalog language) → held over, not addressed
- c. Can a campus “add” campus uniqueness in Upper (or Lower) Division GE (but have to allow UD GE to be transferable without additional evaluation per EO1100 revision in 2017) (referral re: campus questions to chair) → held over, not addressed

14. No new business was brought up

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm

MVS/ECS 03/18/21