
Chancellor's General Education Advisory Committee

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

12:00 am – 1:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Attendees: Mark Van Selst, Eniko Csomay, Kevin Baaske, David Barsky, Gary Laver, Michelle Bean, Jenni Robinson, Melissa Lavitt

Visitors: Graham Benton (CSU Maritime), Francelina Neto (Dean, Mechanical Engineering, CAL Maritime), William Tsai (Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering, CAL Maritime), Robert Collins (Chair, ASCSU)

The meeting began at 12:00 noon

1. Chair's welcome and introductory comments
 - a. No approval of minutes until March
 - b. Outlined reasons for special meeting
 - c. Noted that Monterey Bay's request for exemption will be addressed at GEAC in March
2. Chancellor's Exemption Requests (see Dropbox)
 - a. CSU Maritime Academy: two programs requesting CSU CO exemption for Oral Communication (A1)
 - i. Mechanical Engineering
 1. USCG Third Asst. Option (183 units)
 2. Mechanical Engineering Option (157 units)

The reason for the special meeting today was to provide an opportunity for at least some members of GEAC to weigh in on the recommendation request for an A1 waiver for Cal Maritime (Catalog considerations changed the initial plan to address these issues in March). At the last meeting there was a request for three items to be addressed, namely:

1) Where is Oral Communication being met (i.e., across which courses/how)

From January GEAC:

- the verbal presentation was across 3 courses, where the last course is a capstone;
 - the faculty member(s) responsible for A1 at CMA faculty signed off on outcomes being met.
- NEW: the March GEAC Dropbox now has the full course sequence and campus GE commentary (unanimous support)

2) What is the consequence of an A1 exemption (or lack thereof) on transfer students

From January GEAC:

- this is an issue GEAC can tap internal knowledge for but is likely influential in recommending the waiver (vs. no exception, but assessed in the major on campus);
- this would be the first A1 waiver in the system, procedurally would not be implemented differently from other approved A3 waivers.

NEW: one product of an exemption is that it removes the 'hold' that would otherwise restrict a student from being deemed CSU-admissible based on the requested exemption item if it is one of the golden four (A1, A2, A3, B4).

3) What does the Cal Maritime Program revision look like?

From January GEAC:

- verbal presentation – very large number of units but coast guard certification + ABET certification requires this.

NEW: the March GEAC Dropbox now has the full course sequence and campus GE commentary.

Elements extracted from the discussion:

- Enabling a pathway that allows students to avoid oral com by oral com colleagues is bothersome
 - The campus GE committee has weighed in (with unanimous support) and the plan includes oral com faculty.
 - Is it the case that a “distributed” exposure to training in A3 leads to the same outcomes achieved when taken as a single coherent experience taught by a domain expert (two parts to this concern).
 - Are there different standards being applied to A3 (and potentially now A1) that would NOT be applied if a suggestion to distribute B4 (or other GE area)?
- Conflicted in the decision – beginning to head down a path where majors are taking responsibilities for other GE courses. Where would students get their foundation then?
 - □ This speaks to the bigger picture “role” of GE in the CSU curriculum and the fact that some of the strengths of GE is the interaction with others who have differing viewpoints and backgrounds.
- Is there a reason not to do this given that we have already done this before?
 - □ The oral comm (A1) part is new, other golden four (A3, critical thinking) already has precedent.
 - This action should NOT be seen as establishing a precedent (A1 now “fully on the table”) because of the very high units remaining in the program despite prior actions (the context under discussion now is unique as it includes two sets of requirements: both ABET and Coast Guard requirements)
 - Is it unfair that formal accreditation / certification can drive ‘reductions’ in GE per CSU practices? (this question goes beyond the immediate issue)
- What happens to transfer students?
 - Similar to other institutions that have programs with an A3 exemption, CSUApply would be modified to no longer restrict applicants missing A1.
- What happens to non-completers of the degree program (re: A1)?
 - A1 certification would occur with the last course in the sequence, so if that is not complete the student would NOT be deemed to have completed A1.
- Why A1 (vs. A3 or other)?
 - Cal Maritime did want to maintain assessment of the GE outcomes actually being met in the program, an examination of EO and guiding notes language suggested that A3 was unlikely to be met in the existing program or through reasonable modifications to it.

ACTION:

Should GEAC make a recommendation? 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain (4-0-1)

Should GEAC recommend approval of the request (A1) for the two Cal Maritime programs? 3 yes; 2 no; 2 abstain 2 (3-2-2)

It was explicitly noted that the letter accompanying this recommendation highlight:

- (i) division of the vote;
- (ii) the exceptional nature of Cal Maritime program (dual requirement) vis-à-vis multiple competing pressures for some exceptionally high unit programs;
- (iii) the campus' commitment to continued assessment of A1 competencies in these major programs; and
- (iv) the unanimous campus support from the campus GE committee.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm

EC/MVS Feb 9, 2021