

In Spring 2018 the Gen Ed Working Group split into two smaller sub-committees to allow focused work and meet scheduling challenges. The Gen Ed Phase II Working Group (tasked with continuing to work on the categories portion of the GE program) was comprised of the following members: Chair Anne Galbraith (Biology), Colin Belby (Geography and Earth Sciences), Sam Cocks (Philosophy), Natalie Eschenbaum (English), Taviare Hawkins (Physics), Shelley Hay (Global Cultures and Languages), Heather Hulett (Mathematics and Statistics), Aaron Bhatoya (student; joined after 3/19/18). The group held nearly weekly meetings, and the Chair periodically updated Faculty Senate throughout the year.

### **February/March 2018**

The group dedicated two meetings on 2/16/18 and 2/23/18 to completing the necessary logistics and research to report back to Senate as requested by the vote on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Data were collected regarding faculty interest in teaching FYS courses, room availability for FYS courses, available funding to cover instruction, and effects on student time to graduation, all items requested by Faculty Senate. On March 2, 2018 the group met with Deans/Deans Representatives Roger Haro, Kim Vogt, Laura Milner, Nicole Vidden, Ashley Cree, and Natalie Solverson to discuss the data collected to that point (below), as well as the intersection of GE with each college core. Each Dean/Rep indicated that they were on board to make the required FYS a reality.

- Re: the number of instructors interested in teaching a FYS. By Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, there were enough instructors (with Department Chair approval) to teach 47-72 sections in Fall 2020.
- Re: room & course availability. There were enough classrooms to accommodate the FYS (via Registrar's office) so long as some classes were scheduled outside the most popular times of 10am - 2pm.
- Re: funding of instruction. JPB approved increased funding for more sections of UWL 100 as a stepping stone to a required FYS; these resources would be available for implementing the new course in Fall 2020.
- Re: concerns about time-to-degree. If time-to-degree becomes a concern for students needing a 3-credit FYS, Dean's Offices agreed to look to college cores to free up requirements. In addition, data from Natalie Solverson indicated that students currently fulfill their "extra nine credits" by taking classes in the sciences and self and society categories. While science courses are likely being taken to fulfill college core and major requirements, the numbers in self and society might drop and free up more instructors for FYS.

After the Working Group followed up with Senate re: these concerns, the Senate approved the following proposal on March 22, 2018 (16 yeas, 6 nays):

- i. Change #1: All New Students, and Transfer Students with less than 30 credits, must take one 3-credit First Year Seminar course during one of their first two semesters at UWL.

- ii. Change #2: All students must take the minimum number of credits currently required in each of the current categories, which totals a minimum of 39 credits.
- iii. The General Education Working Group will continue working with campus on the distribution portion of GE to develop a truly integrative model that will allow students to better understand the purpose of GE. Will be brought to Senate in early Fall 2018.

A subsequent meeting on 3/30/18 was held to plan questions for Aaron Bhatoya (student representative) to ask students in six separate hour-long focus groups.

### **April/May 2018**

Student focus group questions were finalized at the 4/6/18 meeting, and Phase II Working Group members signed up to provide baked goods for students at each of the focus groups. In addition, at this meeting Phase II group members made plans to attend Chairs meetings to gather generalized feedback on Phase II plans from departments prior to summer work; the schedule for Chairs meeting visits was finalized at the 4/13/18 meeting. Over the next three weeks individual Phase II group members met with the Chairs of CSH (Hulett, Eschenbaum and Galbraith on 4/19/18), CLS/SOE (Hawkins, Belby and Galbraith on 4/23/18) and CBA (Cocks, Hay, and Galbraith on 5/2/18).

The summer working group for Phase II (Chair Anne Galbraith, Shelley Hay, Sam Cocks, Heather Hulett, Colin Belby, Taviare Hawkins, Natalie Eschenbaum, Kenneth Shonk) met on 5/11/18. Aaron Bhatoya gave a final report from his six focus groups with students, and the group began to plan summer work. The summer working group met again on 5/21/18 to discuss feedback from Chairs meetings, to receive updates for the FYS plans, and to give feedback to the FYS group re: forthcoming email application soliciting instructors for the Fall 2019 FYS pilot.

### **June 2018**

The first summer meeting was held on 6/4/18 to begin work on a "statement of purpose" for the Gen Ed program. The goal was to follow the statement of purpose with some specific objectives of the program, building assessable SLOs from there. The structure of the program would then be designed with those SLOs in mind. Once this initial structure was in place, departments would decide where their current GE courses might fit and seek approval (probably from GEC) for those decisions. The group was given "homework" to look at peer, aspirant and other models of GE programs to begin writing a statement of purpose.

A statement of purpose, now called a "mission statement" for the GE program, was drafted at the 6/11/18 meeting, to be followed by SLOs. At the 6/18/18 meeting, Bryan Kopp (CATL liaison to FYS) was a guest. Kate Parker (Special Assistant to the Provost—Strategic Planning, aka the "new Enilda") was added to the group and agreed to take and post minutes at all subsequent meetings. The group continued work on the mission statement and began developing GE program goals. At the 6/25/18 meeting the group discussed the possibility of a system-wide Gen Ed core and the need for increased transferability of general education courses (specifically)

within the UW system. The group also continued to edit the mission statement and to work on developing a set of program goals.