

2/23/10

TO: All Interested Parties in the University Community

From: Mark Shanda, Chair, University Level Advisory Committee (ULAC) on the GEC

RE: Revised Recommendations

The University Level Advisory Committee met today for a spirited meeting to discuss feedback that has been received to date to our 1/26/2010 memo outlining our recommendations for the revised Semester Based General Education Program for the University. As a result, attached are two revised documents to represent our formal recommendation to the CCI for their consideration and action to forward to the Arts and Science Senate. As the discussion document of 1/26/2010 has been widely circulated, I have listed the specific changes that we made today below:

The Curricular Experience Statement

Two changes were made to this document. The first added the word “scientifically” to the very first sentence of the statement. The revised first sentence now reads: “The Ohio State University educates students to solve problems; to think critically, logically, **scientifically**, and creatively;...”

The second change adds” to the subsection “Develop and assimilate perspectives to” a fifth “arrowed” element that reads; **understand the roles of science and technology.**

The Recommended Template

A variety of changes were made to the template in response to concerns raised by the faculty and they are:

1. Clarifying Course Set 5 to read more accurately: Achievement of math placement level “R” or completion of Math 075/104 and a Math or Logical Analysis course above that level. This was the intent all along and was not well presented.
2. Course sets 7 and 8 – Revised with the goal of requiring 10 units of science for all students (BA & BS) as the minimum requirement. These 10 units must come from a student taking both Biological Science and Physical Science courses and for BA students 1 lab and for BS students 2 labs. This changes addresses concerns about lowering the science requirements to an unacceptable level for BA students and enables greater flexibility to the sciences in the delivery structure of future courses. (3 unit courses, 4 unit courses, 5 unit courses, 1 unit labs, 2 unit labs) The result of this change will mean that all BA students will be required to complete 10 units of science instead of the originally proposed 8 units.
3. Course sets 10 and 11 – Revised to require students to select courses from two of the three existing categories of social science offerings. This change removes the

original recommended re-categorization and maintains the goals of distribution the committee desired without the additional workload.

4. Course Set 12 – Revised to remove the option of fulfilling this category with a Social Science course. The committee felt that leaving Social Science as an option in this course set potentially could discourage enrollment in Culture & Ideas or Historical Study, be counter to our curricular experience aspirations, and would enable students to potentially take 5 social science courses within the general education requirements which the committee felt was an unfair balance.
5. Total unit requirements increase from 44-58 to 46-60 with a resultant shift in the percentages from 36% and 48% to 38% without language and 50% with language.
6. Finally, the first general note was modified to better align with our intent. The new note reads, “GE courses cannot be counted in the major unless otherwise noted.”

One other matter that was raised during the meeting that will require some attention is the suggestion that we develop a name for these requirements that is different from “General Education” and more specifically “GEC” given both history and perception. The committee appreciates the merits of this need, but ran out of time to fully address and develop a response. We are hopeful that the CCI might take on this naming challenge as the process continues to move forward.

We are hopeful that with these changes that the CCI might, at their meeting on March 5, endorse this recommendation for formal consideration by the Arts and Sciences Senate before the end of the quarter.