On Nov. 19th, 2021 the Arts and Sciences Curriculum committee first considered approval of the GEN Bookend: Launch Seminar via a presentation by Meg Daly and Sarah Holt from Undergraduate Education of their proposed Carmen Site. The Panel’s feedback was as follows:

1. First Bookend: Presentation of Carmen site (guests: Meg Daly and Sarah Holt)
   * Daly: The bookend courses, as a reminder, are 1-credit seminars that introduce and cap off the new General Education experience. The first bookend course is envisioned to be taken by students within their first three semesters and to complement, rather than supplant, the current survey course requirement. The bookend courses are designed as hybrid courses, meeting either in-person or synchronously each week and are run through the Office of Academic Affairs. Since they are run through Academic Affairs, there is no clear pathway for approval, so we have decided to pass them through the ASCC given this body is taking the lead on new GE course approval. As an additional informational item, we will be hiring a program director to facilitate these two bookend courses.
   * Committee Member Question: One of the major things that I noticed is that there appears to be an emphasis on first-year students in this first bookend. What are we doing to assist transfer students, particularly those who transfer later, such as with an Associates or as third- or fourth-year students?
     + Daly: The first bookend, ideally, will be taken in a student’s second semester so they have room for the survey requirement in the first semester. That being said, transfer students still need additional thought by ULAC and the soon-to-be hired program director. Our thinking is that we did not want to go too far into course content customization until we had the core content approved by the ASCC.
   * Committee Member Question: What is the timeline for our body to approve the bookend materials?
     + Daly: We are submitting this course to you for approval here and now, so the approval timeline is up to how quickly you think you can accurately approve this material.
     + Holt: We are planning to pilot this course with students over the summer, so ideally sometime in early winter so that we can have the material prepared and ready for students come May.
     + Daly: Additionally, advisors would like to know what content is in the bookends to adjust survey as necessary, and we will not send this out to advisors until it is fully approved by your body.
   * Committee Member Question: Are we able to review this bookend course without viewing the concluding bookend in conjunction?
     + Daly: If the ASCC believes they need the second bookend course to be able to properly evaluate the initial one, we can certainly develop and provide that for you.
   * Committee Member Question: How will these course be assessed/evaluated? What faculty-level oversight will there be in evaluating the success of the bookends?
     + Daly: Assessment will take place, as with any course. Data will be compiled by Alan Kalish and ULAC and then that data will be reviewed by the ASCC and other bodies.
   * Committee Member Question: How are instructors being selected and will course instructors be known before students schedule?
     + Daly: We are hiring instructors from different programs. Currently, the pool here at the Columbus campus is instructors working at the University in a non-100% FTE capacity but who wish to increase their FTE capacity. Arts and Sciences will have the largest pool, but these will not be exclusively ASC instructors.
   * Committee Member Question: What will be done about students who come in with, for example, CCP credits or take courses at other institutions to fulfill their GE credits during summer semester?
     + Daly: The short answer is that these students still took GE courses somewhere and the bookend courses are designed to be more reflective upon a student’s change-over-time and less a reflection upon individual courses. They also will be given opportunities to bring in artifacts from other sources if they need to. As for the assessment of these students, it is true they may be outliers in our data but we can always flag that when Assessment takes place.
   * Wilson: This appears to be a challenging project for our body, but we do have the authority to approve these courses. Additionally, because this is a project for our body, we have the authority to ask for any additional materials we may need in order to approve of the courses.
     + Committee Member Comment: While the Carmen shell is a great tool and resource for us to view, we need two syllabi to be able to properly review these courses. We cannot review courses without a syllabus. That has been the standard of the ASCC for course review.
     + Committee Member Comment: Perhaps we should consider forming an ad-hoc Panel to discuss these courses, comprised of a faculty member of all of our current Panels.
     + Committee Member Question: Do we need to see both the beginning and ending bookend courses in order to be able to holistically evaluate the courses? We should probably bring this conversation up before we decide how we will evaluate the bookend courses.