



September 27, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jonathan Pettit, Chair, General Education Committee
Christine Beaulé, Director, General Education Office

FROM: Michael Bruno, Provost *Michael Bruno*

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO GENERAL EDUCATION THREE-YEAR
PROGRAM REVIEW PROGRESS REPORT

Thank you for submitting the three-year progress report providing a comprehensive update regarding your progress in relation to the goals of the program review of General Education. Through the collective efforts of the GEC, MFS, and GEO, you have clearly taken great strides in several of the areas the review team identified.

You have made steady progress on meeting the goals of the General Education Assessment Plan, beginning with establishing SLOs for Foundations and Focus, and more recently adding SLOs for Diversification. At this rate you certainly appear on schedule to complete this initial phase by AY 2025-26. I appreciate the hard work of the Boards and Faculty Learning Communities in developing the SLOs utilizing best practices from AAC&U and the WICHE Interstate Passport. I look forward to learning more about the research and efforts around creating more robust, scaffolded learning experiences for students in relation to oral communication skills, as well.

I am intrigued by the work of the “Blue Sky” and “Tinkering” working groups. Although these groups have generated a set of innovative, promising strategies, I understand their implementation was tabled in light of the 2021 Summer Institute, where they hopefully provided a useful starting point for meaningful discussion. I look forward to learning more about how the outcomes of the Summer Institute will help address the curricular issues that hinder seamless articulation for students who matriculate from outside the UH system, as well as the development of innovative approaches toward creating greater coherence across the General Education curriculum.

Impressive work has taken place in the area of developing thematic pathways, and I am pleased with the rapid progress of the GEC Curriculum Working Group in creating the TPGE initiative. I look forward to learning more about these pathways as you move to fully implement them. I applaud the move from instructor to course-based Focus and will follow the progress of this transition between now and the next comprehensive review.

J. Pettit
C. Beaulé
September 27, 2021
Page 2

Regarding the governance recommendations, the MOU between GEC, MFS/SEC and OVP&E has been ratified, and the governance document was submitted to SEC by GEC in April of this year after multiple iterations. I am hopeful that these documents will be in place in the coming academic year.

This will be an exciting year for General Education, and I look forward to learning more about the new curriculum, structures, and processes proposed from the very important redesign work that is ongoing. Given that 2021-22 will be used primarily for consultation and refinement of the proposed redesign, I will suggest that the next comprehensive visit be moved from 2022-23 to 2023-24, to allow an implementation year before the next external review team is brought in. I look forward to seeing the results of the exciting innovative and collaborative improvements that will be actualized as a result of the hard collective work of the faculty and staff who have supported this effort. You are all to be commended for your dedication and tireless efforts in support of general education on our campus and across the system.

C: Brent S. Sipes, Chair UHM Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Laura E. Lyons, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence
April Nozomi Quinn, Director of Program Development and Review