The Committee on General Education
Report to the Senate
Academic Year 2017-2018
Robin Gustafson, Chair

The committee on general education consisted of the following members for AY 2017-2018: Josie Hamer (Dean), Leslie Lindenuer (FY Coordinator), Nathanial Walker (SGA), Jennifer O’Brien (LC) William DeFeo (Ancell), Pamela McDaniels (VPA), Pat Cumella (PS), Robin Gustafson (A&S), Theodora Pinou (A&S), Stuart Dalton (At-Large).

We met September 22, 2017, October 6, 2017, November 3, 2017, December 1, 2017, December 8, 2017, February 2, 2018, and May 4, 2018. Campus was closed for our scheduled March meeting, and we didn’t have quorum for our scheduled April meeting. We met a total of 7 times.

The entire university community is welcome at our meetings, and at several of our meetings we had quite a few non-committee-members in attendance and participating in everything except voting.

In addition to approving course designations, we also voted on the following motions:

FY – A motion to remove the FY requirement for those students entering WCSU with at least 24 non-AP credits was passed at the November 3, 2017 meeting, and then approved at the Senate meeting on January 24, 2018.

SI – A motion to make the SI competency refer solely to physics, meteorology, biology, and chemistry, was defeated at the December 8, 2017 meeting.

CT – A motion to replace the CT competency with two new, more specific competencies was approved at the December 1, 2017 meeting, with courses currently designated CT automatically getting the LR or TA designation as per the department’s own wishes. The Senate tabled this proposal at the February, March, and April meetings.

LR – A motion to add a new competency – Logical Reasoning – was proposed by an ad hoc committee, and approved at the December 8, 2017 meeting. The Senate tabled this proposal at the February, March, and April meetings.

TA - A motion to add a new competency – Textual Analysis – was proposed by an ad hoc committee, and approved at the December 8, 2017 meeting. The Senate tabled this proposal at the February, March, and April meetings.

We still have a lot of work in front of us. We have begun to assess the completely new general education curriculum that went into effect in Fall, 2016, and many of the issues associated with a major change are being discussed at our regular and special meetings. We are currently working on specifying how and when curricular changes should be made to general education, whether the IC should be revised, and how best to clarify competencies (or university core values) so that the designations are both more substantive and more straightforward.

Dr. Alexander is leading an all-day workshop on the Critical Thinking competency on May 22 to which all are invited.

In the meantime, we encourage everyone to keep talking about general education with us. Our regular meetings during AY 2018-2019 will occur at 2:30 on the first Thursday of every month and will be chaired by Chuck Rocca.