

Memorandum of Understanding: Statement of Collaboration and Communication

General Education Governance Board, Brenda Helmbrecht, Chair
General Education Task Force, Gregg Fiegel and Andrew Morris, Co-Chairs

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The General Education Governance Board (GEGB) and the recently created General Education Task Force (GETF) have a common goal: providing a visionary and high quality General Education (GE) program for Cal Poly students. Each group includes faculty, students, staff, and administrators with interest and experience in general education at Cal Poly. Faculty members working for the board and task force represent all six of the university's colleges.

The GEGB is a committee under the Academic Senate at Cal Poly. In support of its mission, as described in the Academic Senate bylaws, the GEGB works to develop and maintain a comprehensive, dynamic, and responsive general education program. Moreover, in response to its two-year-long self-study and program review, the board is working with the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee (ASCC) to develop a course renewal process, revisiting GE educational objectives (EOs) and criteria (CRs), and exploring the possibility of new, high impact, curricular practices. In addition, the board is addressing ongoing tasks related to course and curriculum review.

The GETF was appointed by the Provost in winter 2017. The task force is charged with providing recommendations regarding a vision for breadth education at Cal Poly. The task force envisions a GE program that is accessible and relevant to all majors and is owned by all faculty. The task force seeks an integrated program that has distinct meaning for GE stakeholders and embodies Learn By Doing at all levels. In support of its work, the task force is researching foundational university GE documents, reflecting on individual goals, carrying out sustained efforts to gain feedback and opinions from stakeholders, and exploring best practices - ideas, designs, and improvements - in general education.

The GEGB and GETF include leaders who have extensive experience in curriculum and program development. Collaboration and open communication between these two groups is essential, given the importance of general education at Cal Poly. Further, a great opportunity exists to build upon the recent program review and the resulting energy and enthusiasm toward GE design and innovations. To seize upon this opportunity, the GEGB and GETF will work alongside one another toward the goal of improving GE and providing value for Cal Poly students. The GEGB and the GETF chairs and members will consult regularly to help ensure the work of the two bodies complements and informs one other. The groups will seek input and feedback on important issues and tasks. More specifically, the groups will organize occasional joint meetings, as appropriate, to facilitate discussion and collaboration. The groups will regularly update one another to consult on questions related to specific tasks, projects, and/or initiatives.

Any revisions to GE curriculum will undergo the standard curricular review process as outlined in the Academic Senate Bylaws. More specifically, both the GEGB and, ultimately, the Academic Senate will review the GETF recommendations and proposals.