Revision of General Education Program Update

Academic Programs

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Dear Colleagues,

As many of you know, Cal Poly is in the midst of revising its General Education (GE) template to be in accordance with Executive Order 1100-Revised (EO 1100-R), which was issued August 23, 2017. We wanted to provide you with an update on where we are in regards to our timeline.
Cal Poly has until Fall 2020 to fully implement the order. As we are on a two-year catalog cycle, with the next publication set to be 2019-21, this effective date presents some challenges. After a careful discussion between representatives of the Academic Senate, the General Education Governance Board, Office of the Registrar, and Academic Programs and Planning, it has been determined that the university will respond by employing two one-year catalogs: 2019-20 and 2020-21.

- The 2019-20 catalog will contain approved changes made through Spring 2018 and encompass Summer 2019 through Spring 2020 quarters.
- The 2020-21 catalog will be restricted to changes made to the new GE template and changes made to major curricula in response to the new GE template.
- Any other curricular changes, including new or modified course proposals, will be considered for the 2021 catalog.

The ongoing development of new GE course criteria and learning objectives will eventually require the review of all existing GE courses. This is expected to be a phased, multi-year process, beginning with the 2021 catalog.

The deadline for the Academic Senate to approve a new GE template and submit it to the Office of the Registrar is May 1, 2019. The Office will then begin to contact departments that have degree programs impacted by the changes and will engage them in a guided process of adjusting their curricula. For the sake of clarity and consistency, it may be desirable to move all students who entered on the 2019-20 catalog to the 2020-21 catalog.

This pilot experience of two one-year catalogs will not only help us meet the timeline for our GE revisions but will also allow Cal Poly to consider moving to a one-year catalog cycle; this decision would be made following a process of consultation.

The process of revising our General Education program in response to EO 1100-R has been challenging, but it has also provided us with the moment and motivation to update a 20-year-old program. I am excited by the progress made thus far and believe that the result will be a stronger General Education experience for our students.

If you have any questions or concerns about the process as described above, please do not hesitate to contact Shannon Sullivan-Danser, Staff Coordinator for General Education. She can be reached at the Office of Academic Programs and Planning, 756-2247, or ssulliva@calpoly.edu.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this time of change.

Sincerely,

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