

Approved 10/14/25

General Education Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2025

Members Present: Pocaro, Anderson, Harvey, Yu, Thapaliya, Brantley, Buchter, Janssen Robinson, Heist

Business

1. Thapaliya made a motion to approve the minutes for Sept. 30 and Pocaro seconded.
2. Heist shared with the committee that she sent the Call for Materials on October 7th. The provost and CAA chair were copied to the emails.
3. Heist shared that the provost will be joining us on October 21st. Asked the members to share any questions they want to ask the provost. Heist took notes of the questions and will compile an email and send to the provost as a heads-up.
4. The members took part in open discussion on two questions:
 - a. What does it mean to be student-centered when developing a general education program?
 - b. What purpose does general education serve for the university? What purpose does it serve for the students?

Members joining the meeting face-to-face discussed as a group. Members joining on the Zoom were divided into two groups and discussed in breakout rooms for 10-12 minutes.

5. After the breakout meetings, the members circled back and shared their discussion notes.

The group talked about creating a Foundational/Pathway course that the incoming freshmen and transfer students will take week before the classes start. There is a pathway course right now that is 16 week, but not be providing students with the support/skills they needed quickly enough (given that it is completed simultaneously with their regular course schedule). Making the course a weeklong course can help students equip the students with the necessary skills and knowledge to be successful in their undergraduate studies.

Members also talked about creating a thematic relationship between different disciplines on campus through general education.

Another idea was creating interdisciplinary classes in general education where faculty from different schools and departments teach those classes, so students get to learn from different faculty around campus and see a connection between different disciplines.

Another idea was that the universities that have innovative general education programs focus on the 21st century problems. The committee discussed these problems as a possible direction for organizing pathways in general education.

6. Heist proposed that we continue the discussion in the next meeting.
7. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.