

University-Wide General Education Committee (UWGEC) Report to Undergraduate Council & Faculty Senate

Submitted by Rob Groves, Professor of Practice (Classics), UWGEC Chair
on October 16, 2026

What is UWGEC?

The [University-Wide General Education Committee](#) (UWGEC) is a shared governance body with 22 members, most of whom are faculty members representing Colleges that are active in teaching General Education courses, along with two student representatives, three Foundations area representatives, a library representative, and a chair appointed in consultation between the Chair of the Faculty and the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

A list of current UWGEC members can be found here: <https://ge.arizona.edu/gened-committee/uwgec-members>. Please note that several vacancies on UWGEC from the college of Nursing, College of Science, and ASUA, have recently been filled and those representatives have begun to be on-boarded.

Recent Activities

- 1.) Since my last report, UWGEC has had two meetings, on September 30 and October 14. Both meetings have seen a combination of course review and policy/procedure discussions, which will be detailed below.
- 2.) Course Approvals:
 - a. The following courses have been approved for inclusion in the Gen Ed curriculum: FREN 331
 - b. The following courses have been conditionally approved, pending a final round of required revisions: GLS 228, GLS 264, HPS 300
 - c. Several more courses have gone back to proposers for revisions before UWGEC votes on them.
- 3.) Chair Approvals:
 - a. The chair has approved course modifications which did not affect alignment with Gen Ed status for the following courses:
 - i. GEOG 230, GEOG 251, PAH 320, RSSS 310
 - ii. MATH 120R (Foundations: Math)
- 4.) UWGEC and OGE continue to work together to ensure that courses that previously carried only the Diversity and Equity attribute and are currently out of compliance with Gen Ed policy are brought back into alignment. Approximately 12 courses which proposers believe can be easily aligned with the Understand and Value Differences

attribute are being reviewed currently. OGE staff have reached (and will be reaching) out to departments regarding other courses that currently have no attribute and which the departments have not yet committed to a plan to bring into alignment. \

- 5.) UWGEC received the brief submitted by OGE regarding the UNIV 101 and 301 courses and briefly discussed it. We are grateful for the continuing improvement of this piece of the curriculum.
- 6.) UWGEC was also briefed on ABOR written communication assessment conducted by OGE assessment experts. The data shows some downward trends in student writing capabilities according to the tri-university rubric. In UWGEC discussions, the emergence of AI was a central point of the discussion, especially the challenges of assessing student writing (at both a course level and a university level). Thus far, UWGEC does not seem to think this data suggests we should revisit the design of our Gen Ed program.
- 7.) UWGEC also briefly discussed and endorsed OGE's established transfer guidelines and processes, in particular the idea that assessments of individual transfer courses should be a.) based on examination of the course syllabus, b.) accompanied by brief documentation articulating the legitimacy of the transfer, and should follow c.) the review principles articulated by OGE, including that courses can be articulated if they meet the "spirit of the requirement" and that transfer guidelines should be flexible while also reflective of the integrity of the curriculum.

Current Status

UWGEC does not currently have a backlog of courses for review and is generally able to move on courses within 2-4 weeks of receiving submissions.

UWGEC currently has 1 course under review by subgroups, 15 courses in hands of proposers, as we await their revisions before a UWGEC vote, and 6 courses which have been conditionally approved, but which require the submission of revisions before they can be fully approved. UWGEC does not currently have a backlog of courses for approval; all courses that have been routed to us are either under current review, are in the hands of proposers for revisions, or have had their review completed.

If anyone has questions about any of the above, please contact me (groves@arizona.edu) and I will be happy to explain anything further or convey your feedback and comments to UWGEC.

Abbreviations of Note:

OGE: Office of General Education

Curricular Categories: BC = Building Connections; CI = Civic Institutions; EP = Exploring Perspectives

Attributes: CE = Civic Engagement; QR = Quantitative Reasoning; UVD = Understand and Value Difference; WCS = World Cultures & Societies