May 29, 2020

To: Department Chairs

Re: Recertification of General Education Courses

In eight-year reviews of the General Education Foundation Areas, there have been increasing concerns about the ever-growing number of the General Education (GE) courses and the potential for curricular drift among these courses. The most recent practice for ensuring GE standards entailed a General Education Governance Committee (GEGC), review of a random sample of existing GE courses from the GE approval database on an annual basis. When necessary, instructors were asked to make changes to the course. The eight-year reviews emphasize that this process needs to be updated.

As a result, GEGC, a standing committee of the Undergraduate Council (UgC), has decided to make modifications to the way in which existing GE courses are reviewed to ensure that the standards of General Education at UCLA are met on a regular basis. We are now establishing a new review procedure in which all GE courses are certified on a five-year basis. This includes both new and existing GE courses.

Once a new course receives GE approval, departments will be notified every five years to resubmit the course for recertification and it will be reviewed by GEGC. In order to bring existing GE courses in line with the new system and standards, GEGC will review all courses in the approval database over the next five years. In the coming months, GEGC and UgC will put together a schedule for this review process and provide it to departments. When creating the schedule, GEGC and UgC will consider course enrollments and departments with multiple GE courses, in order to ensure there is not an undue burden on certain departments.
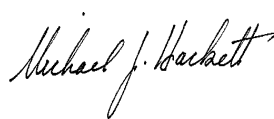
Departments with courses needing recertification will be notified in their fourth year, allowing them adequate time to submit the necessary materials. Please note the review process can last more than one quarter. Information on how to submit new courses and recertifications can be found at this website.

If you have any questions about the process please contact GEGC program representative, Ananya Bhargava at abhargava@college.ucla.edu, or Academic Administrator, Jared McBride at mcbridejg@ucla.edu. We look forward to working with you on this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Adriana Galvan
Chair, Undergraduate Council

Michael Hackett
Chair, General Education Governance Committee

cc: Brooke Wilkinson, Director, Academic Initiatives
        Aileen Liu, Analyst, Undergraduate Council
        Jared McBride, Academic Administrator