

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs
Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



REVISED *

October 27, 2017

2017-2018 General Education Board (GEB)

Adrian Burgos, *Chair*

Antony Augoustakis, LAS (Fall Semester)

Kate Clancy, LAS (Spring Semester)

Susan Curtis, BUS

Lee DeVille, LAS

Matt Gilbert, LAS (Spring Semester)

George Gollin, ENG

Chris Higgins, EDU

Harrison Kim, ENG

Linda Robbennolt, FAA*

Brenda Lindsey, SOC WK

Stephen Peters, BUS

Kelly Ritter, LAS

Rebecca Sandefur, LAS

Sela Sar, MEDIA

John Senseney, FAA*

Dan Shike, ACES

Jon Welty-Peachey, AHS

TBD, Engineering

Ryan Yapp, *undergraduate student**

James Swigart, *graduate student*

Casey Walker, *undergraduate student*

Kathy Martensen, *ex-officio*

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your willingness to serve, or to continue to serve, on the General Education Board (GEB) in 2017-2018. I am pleased that Adrian Burgos has agreed to provide leadership for the Board. I welcome Adrian along with Brenda Lindsey, Kelly Ritter, John Senseney,* Dan Shike, Sela Sar, TBD-ENG, and TBD-UG student to the Board and thank outgoing members Karen Carney, Julian Parrott, Meagan Schaffer, and Craig Zilles for their contributions.

In May 1989, the Urbana Senate established the General Education Board to “ensure, as much as possible, that general education courses will be valuable intellectual experiences.” Since then, the Board has been responsible for defining the categories of general education requirements for the campus, as well as the criteria for approval of courses within these categories. The Board also reviews individual course proposals, and on a staggered schedule, reviews and recertifies all courses approved for general education credit.

The Board will continue to review proposals for courses new to General Education. In the interest of efficiency, I ask the Board to continue to take action on these requests in the course of the monthly meetings. Materials received in our office will be made available prior to meetings to allow for informed discussion.

Over the last few years the Board demonstrated its support for innovation by allowing for provisional certification of experimental courses, including pilot courses for the Grand Challenge Learning (GCL) initiative. I thank you for your willingness to help GCL and other experiments move forward in a timely manner, and I hope you will continue to be encouraging as the campus explores new approaches to General Education courses.

I anticipate a significant amount of the Board's work this year will revolve around the new Cultural Studies requirement that affects students starting in Fall, 2018. Action by the Senate in May, 2016 amended EP.89.09 to require three Cultural Studies courses, one concentrating on Western culture, one on non-Western culture, and one on U.S. minority culture. The Senate also specifically charged the GEB to propose changes to the criteria for approval of all Cultural Studies courses and to reconcile disparities between EP.89.09 as amended in EP.16.80 and GB.91.02 with campus implementation of General Education as amended in EP.16.80. The 2016-2017 Board successfully developed the Cultural Studies criteria, which have been applied to review of courses applying for general education certification in these categories effective starting in March, 2017. A proposal to reconcile EP.89.09 as amended in EP.16.80 and GB.91.02 with campus practice was submitted to the Senate Educational Policy Committee in late February, 2017. This year's Board will need to ensure that EPC completes its review of this proposal and puts it before the Senate. The Board will also be responsible for review of U.S. Minority Cultures course applications, both that are submitted anew and those that are submitted using the survey sent by the Office of the Provost on behalf of the implementation committee this past summer. You should expect higher-than-normal activity in course reviews for the U.S. Minority Cultures category this year and next year.

For your information, two implementation task groups continue to meet to guide administrative preparation for the new Cultural Studies requirement. Those groups will project seats needed, work with colleges and departments to ensure that adequate seats are available, consider TA and instructor training programs, work with degree audit systems, and ensure that academic advisors are equipped to help students with the new requirements. A third group is preparing a plan to assess the impact of the new requirement on student learning and campus climate. The GEB retains its responsibility and sole authority to certify courses for general education requirements, including courses in the U.S. minority cultures category.

Again, thank you for your willingness to serve on the General Education Board. The Board plays a crucial role in maintaining a high-quality undergraduate experience at Illinois, and I appreciate the time and effort you devote to that.

Sincerely,



Kevin Pitts
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

c: K. Carney
J. Parrott
M. Schaffer
C. Zilles