

11SP-07

TO: Shared Governance Oversight Committee

FROM: General Education Committee

RE: Revision of the General Education Mission, Goals and Course Review Cycle

DATE: February 11, 2011

The General Education is establishing the assessment plan for the General Education Program. The Committee suggests the following revisions to the Program:

1. Insert the term “ethically” into the mission statement. The Mission would then read:

The general education program develops a foundation and motivation for the lifelong pursuit of learning in undergraduate students at Arkansas State University by introducing them to a broad range of essential areas of knowledge that will enable them to participate *ethically* in our democratic nation and a global society.

Rationale: The Standards of Student Conduct state the ASU “community's expectation is that conduct is marked by integrity.” The Standards further define ethical behavior as “an obligation to aspire to a set of principles and values that demonstrate a commitment to fairness, honesty, empathy and achievement.” The General Education Committee recommendation is motivated by the discussion of ethical behavior during the development of the individual general education outcomes. Placement of the term “ethically” in the mission statement eliminates the need to insert terminology related to ethical behavior in each goal.

2. Delete the following goals:
  4. Using technology.
  10. Understanding interdependence.

Rationale: There are no individual general education courses devoted to the goals of using technology and understanding interdependence. The General Education Committee sees these goals as skills that may be developed across the curriculum but they are not specific to general education. As the Committee establishes the assessment plan we are unable to assess these goals.

3. Change the review cycle for individual courses in the General Education Program to every 4 years.

Rationale: One component of the responsibilities of the General Education Committee is to review “each course in the general education program once every three-years to determine its acceptability as a general education course.” The triennial review of courses in the general education curriculum precedes the current assessment plan for the general education program. The assessment plan calls for an annual assessment of two of the eight general education goals with assigned courses. If the individual courses are reviewed on a quadrennial cycle then the courses will be reviewed as the related goal is assessed.

