

## Report to MSU Faculty Senate 4 May 2006

The General Education Committee offers the following year-end report to Faculty Senate:

1. In addition to our meetings concerning course recertification, the General Education committee has also met throughout the academic year every Wednesday to discuss ideology, approaches, and new information. This year we have discussed Diversity, Writing Across the Curriculum, and Critical Thinking as these issues pertain to General Education. We roughly determined that:
  - a. **Issues pertaining to Diversity** were of larger scope than General Education alone, so readied to defer to the work of the university Diversity Committee
  - b. We determined that **Writing Across the Curriculum** was important, but various Departments and Programs have their own writing assessments, and that any shift in our understanding and implementation of Writing Across the Curriculum measures would require a campus-wide initiative, not just one associated with General Education
  - c. Our understanding of **Critical Thinking skills** is varied across campus and we have yet to clarify what Critical Thinking means as a campus. All of these issues and more remain on the table for discussion in General Education, and to this end, we maintained a policy throughout the year of inviting anyone from campus to join us in our discussions.
2. Those seeking recertification in academic years 2006-07 and 2007-08 must provide the following at least 10 days before their meeting with us:
  - a. Course recertification form with narrative concerning the strands included.
  - b. **Syllabi for the course/s**
  - c. **Some evidence confirming active teaching and learning of strands in the classroom. Essays, exams, pre/post tests, lessons and responses, from across the assessment spectrum.**
  - d. Those faculty members from each Department or Program most in a position to represent the course/s due for recertification must meet with the General Education Committee.
3. **We are also providing written comments to those seeking recertification, and respond with the following assessments:**
  - a. Recertification Approved (with comments from committee)

- b. Recertification Delayed for One Year (with comments from committee)
  - c. **Second Delay in Recertification with Formal Communication from the General Education Committee and the Vice President for Academic Affairs that course/s are on General Education Probation for an additional year.**
4. The VPAA, through the Office of the Registrar, will maintain an archive of General Education Assessment materials in both electronic and physical forms at least through 2008.

### **Course Recertification**

The following courses were recertified as meeting the General Education requirements. Each course was unanimously agreed upon unless noted. Each course must be recertified by Spring 2010:

- ART 110 Introduction to Art (3)
- GERM 101 Beginning German I (4)
- GERM 102 Beginning German II (4)
- GERM 201 Intermediate German I (4)
- GERM 202 Intermediate German II (4)
- MUSC 205 History of U.S. Thru Music (3)
- MUSC 207 History of Pop and Rock Music (3)
- SPAN 101 Beginning Spanish I (4)
- SPAN 102 Beginning Spanish II (4)
- SPAN 201 Intermediate Spanish I (4)
- SPAN 202 Intermediate Spanish II (4)
- THEA 110 Introduction to Theatre Arts (3) – One abstention
- FREN 110 Introduction to French I (4)
- FREN 102 Introduction to French II (4)
- FREN 201 Intermediate French I (4)
- FREN 202 Intermediate French II (4)
- HIST 101 Western Civilization (3)
- HIST 102 Western Civilization II (3)
- HIST 103 United States Survey to 1877 (3)
- HIST 104 United States Survey Since 1877 (3)
- HIST 212 World Civilizations Since 1500 (3)

### **These courses now must be recertified by Faculty Senate Vote**

Robert Kibler was re-elected chair for the 2006-07 academic year.