

# Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting

## University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: General Education, 2021-2022

**Date:** 5/2/2022

**Invited:** Interim Provost Robin Fox; Interim AVC Kristin Plessel; Dean Frank Goza (L&S); Associate Dean Susan Johnson (L&S), Dean Eileen Hayes (A&C); Interim Dean Lana Collet-Klingenberg (COEPS); Interim Dean Paul Ambrose (COBE); Department Chair/Program Coordinator Jessica Bonjour; faculty and staff in the General Education program Karl Brown, Angela Harlan, Rachel Chaphalkar, Tammy French; Program Review Team Chair Corey Davis; Program Review team member Russ Kashian, Assessment Representative Katy Casey

### Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – How often are GE elective courses recertified? What is the process for that recertification? Is there assessment data provided for those courses as part of the certification process?

- i) There has only been one recertification of elective courses. The reason for this was to align courses to the new GE learning objectives. It also served to remind instructors of the course purpose in the GE curriculum. The program does not see a need to conduct another recertification.
- ii) There was wide-spread recognition and appreciation for the work that went into the recertification project. The GE team presented on the findings to campus groups and presentations at national conferences.

2 – The ever-expanding assessment work provides voluminous insightful data, but not without a cost. Does General Education provide stipends to compensate GE instructional staff for this work?

- i) Core course coordinators are provided some support, e.g., small stipend for the semester writing the self-study report. Additionally, some departments do more like English and Math (more common in proficiency than core courses).
- ii) Current GE budget is \$17,000/year, was \$20,000 (at one point documented at \$30,000), when higher it included more professional trainings and travel to conferences
- iii) The program is encouraged to consider a structure of assessment that provides direct information on learning outcomes, right now the GE self-study process does not ask for specific data on outcomes but allows programs to decide what they want to evaluate.

3 – What is the likelihood the GE program will receive staffing necessary to bring course enrollments to what they perceive is a reasonable level? If there is not a plan in place, because there are not any additional resources, what is the plan moving forward? Should there be a consideration of redesigning the courses that are impacted to accommodate larger class sizes?

- i) Staffing is not solely a General Education problem, because staffing comes from departments.
- ii) Coordinator noted that increased enrollment is causing staffing issues across core and proficiency courses. Enrollments fluctuate depending on resources available to add sections and the number of new students.
- iii) Dean Goza noted that the Chancellor is aware that additional staff will be needed to cover sections in fall 2022, and is holding on to FTE to hire more instructional
- iv) Interim Provost Fox asked if there are optimal course sizes: The following was reported: core courses were commonly at 35-40; WOTA in 60s (down from 80); COMM 110 at 32, recommendation is 20-25; Math capped around 30 but that has taken a toll on offerings in higher level coursework, English recommend cap at 18-24 for remedial and proficiency, but most English courses are up to 26
  - (1) Interim Provost Fox is interested to learn more about the impact of staffing shortages on programs- and requested a brief summary on enrollment in core and proficiency courses.
  - (2) Coordinator shared that some projects, such as CORE 2.0, stalled because of the staffing issues
  - (3) Conversations about how to address staffing issues, e.g., use of distance education funds and increasing pool of instructors who are available

## Recommended Actions:

### Recommended Action #1

Work with OAA to design a sustainable assessment system in terms of reporting. Specifically, to consider common, streamlined assessment tools to evaluate the GELOs.

### Recommended Action #2

Create a plan to disseminate the data to stakeholders, including periodic reports to the faculty senate, chairs council and students about GE assessment activities and results.

### Recommended Action #3

Talk to the Office of Academic Assessment about a block of items on the Senior Outcomes Assessment Survey to solicit feedback from students on the impact of knowledge and skills acquired through GE curriculum.

## Recommended Action #4

The General Education Coordinator should document annual conversations with the provost, Deans Council and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs about what is being done to provide resources to address the concerns evident in this report, chiefly among those:

a) Staffing plan for the upcoming academic year, including prescribed class sizes for core GenEd courses, and b) Instructional technology in classrooms.

## Recommended Result:

Continuation without qualification

## Next Self-study and/or Progress Report Due Dates:

1 - Next SHORT self-study will be due to the Dean on May 1, 2026 and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2026

2 - A progress report on recommended action #4 will be due October 1, 2023, to the Dean, and October 15, 2023, to the Assessment Office

*For a copy of the full evaluation report and detailed comments, please reach out to the assessment office: [assessment@uww.edu](mailto:assessment@uww.edu).*