

**Posting of the new General Education Requirements for UMKC by the deadline of October 5, 2001, as required by Missouri's Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE).**

Jakob H. Waterborg, IFC member, Senator for SBS

Fellow Senators,

Please see below a list of dates and short explanations of the timeline that has led to my concern: that UMKC, without any consideration by faculty involved in and responsible for undergraduate programs and curriculum and without deliberate input by administrators responsible for implementation of the undergraduate programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, the Conservatory, and the Schools of Education and Biological Sciences, will post on the web, as a binding agreement with the CBHE, a "draft" that has just been requested a few days ago.

In comparison, all our sister institutions in Missouri have had extensive deliberations for at least the last year, with involvement of faculty and administrators. They are all ready to post (or have already posted) the ways (courses, programs, requirements for graduation and articulation with 2 year institutions) in which they will comply with CBHE's requirements for General Education in undergraduate degrees.

The CBHE requires a posting by each College and University by October 5, 2001. **The posted information**, after a 30-day review by all other institutions in the state, **will be binding**.

- It may determine whether UMKC will graduate any undergraduate students! It requires that all required courses and programs **be implemented by Fall 2002**. This includes full description in the UMKC catalog and full activation for all new entering freshmen.
- It will affect whether any students from regional community colleges will be willing (or able) to transfer into UMKC. If the posted information for UMKC is not clear or compatible with that of the Community Colleges, UMKC may receive many fewer transfer students. This is irrespective of whether students would transfer before or after completion of the "42-credit block" (*see below*). (FYI: CMSU appears fully compliant and has coordinated their courses and new requirements with Kansas City's Community Colleges. What will this do for UMKC's Enrollment Management?)

**Synopsis of the new General Education Requirements:**

The new general education policy moved from the traditional distribution model to a competency based model including 4 **Skill Areas**: Communicating, Higher-Order Thinking, Managing Information, and Valuing, along with 4 **Knowledge Areas**: Social and Behavioral Science, Humanities and Fine Arts, Mathematics, and Life and Physical Sciences. Each area contains mandatory goals and suggested competencies to be met. The term **goals** refers to the curricular intent of state policy regarding the academic skills and knowledge content of general education. The term **competencies** denotes illustrative state-level expectations for student performance in general education.

The policy explicitly states that students transferring before completing the **42-credit block** will have their transcripts evaluated by receiving institutions. Students who are certified by their sending institution as having completed the designated 42 semester-hour block of general education credit will not be required to complete any additional requirements that are part of the corresponding 42 semester-hour general education block of any receiving institution. The receiving institution may, however, require transfer students to complete additional classes beyond their 42 semester-hour block of credit only if native students are obligated to satisfy the same requirements.

There are many things to be considered in defining a list of courses to satisfy General Education Requirements, all of which require the thoughtful consideration of the faculty.

**Timeline:**

- August 1998: COTA established the General Education Steering Committee (GESC) to review the 1987 CBHE Credit Transfer Policy, Section A.1., Prescribed General Education Curriculum. The GESC determined the policy needed revision.
- Feb. 1-2, 1999: COTA charged GESC to seek further information through GESC plenary and informal sessions with participants at the 1999 Statewide Conference on Transfer and Articulation, held on February 1 and 2, 1999 in Columbia, Missouri.
- October 26-27, 1999: The GESC presented Draft I of the Proposed General Education Policy to faculty from across the state at the Statewide Conference on General Education Policy, held in Columbia, MO.
- February 9-10, 2000: The GESC presented Draft II of the Proposed General Education Policy Changes at the 2000 Statewide Conference on Transfer and Articulation.
- June 8, 2000 CBHE adopted the CREDIT TRANSFER: GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION AMONG MISSOURI COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES With Revisions as Proposed by the General Education Steering Committee.
- September 29, 2000: Draft General Education Reporting Matrix was provided to Chief Academic Officers of each institution with a letter (see <http://www.mafs.org/gened/Gen%20Ed%20Matrix%20cover.htm>) stating that the draft would be piloted prior to the transfer and articulation conference, which will be held February 7-8, 2001, and feedback received “would shape the final version of the reporting matrix, which will be available in mid to late February 2001. Based on the current availability of the draft version, along with the availability of the final version in February, it is expected that institutions will return completed matrices to the CBHE in the fall of 2001. Once received, data from these matrices will be posted on the CBHE web site, as specified in the general education policy.”
- November 17, 2000: Emails between and among members of the Council on Undergraduate Education regarding proposed Dec. 8, 2000 meeting to discuss CBHE Gen. Ed. Requirements. Dr. Kaptain recommended the meeting be postponed until “early next semester”, pending discussions with Steve Lehmkuhle at an upcoming UM System meeting.
- January 31, 2001: Memo from Larry Kaptain regarding the Initial Meeting of Assistant/Associate Deans Roundtable, presenting the initial agenda, including as item #3 – CBHE undergraduate general education reporting matrix. This item was tabled at the meeting.
- February 7-8, 2001: Draft General Education Reporting Matrix was approved as presented. Institutions are required to post using the matrix by October 5, 2001.

*Please note that, contrary to suggestions otherwise, the Matrix information posted by October 5, 2001, is **not a “draft”** but the **final, binding agreement** for UMKC on How UMKC will comply with the CBHE Requirements for General Education.*

- March 26-27, 2001: UM System/Community College Transfer Conference held at UMKC with Steve Lehmkuhle as Keynote speaker.
- September 20, 2001: Email from Dr. Kaptain requesting information to report in the Matrix be provided to him by Sept. 28, for final posting Oct. 5, 2001.

*Below a copy of the Email that Jakob Waterborg send to Larry Kaptain upon receipt of this request:*

At 15:24 9/20/2001 -0500, you wrote:

Colleagues,

I am writing to ask your help in filling out this Draft (*sic*) General Education Reporting Matrix from the CBHE.  
<http://www.mocbhe.gov/Acadafrs/drmatrix.doc>

What I would like to do is get as much feedback as possible from each of you with this timetable in mind.

Th. Sept. 20 form sent to Assistant/Associate Deans Roundtable and interested parties

Fri. Sept. 28 return suggestions in DRAFT form to be compiled

Wed. Oct. 3 return penultimate draft to Assistant/Associate Deans for final comments

Friday October 5 return to LK, and we will post the results

How does that sound?

Thanks for your help.

Larry

**Laurence Kaptain**

Assistant Provost

**From:** Waterborg, Jakob H.

**Sent:** Thu 9/20/2001 11:09 PM

**To:** Kaptain, Laurence

**Cc:** Ballard, Steve

**Subject:** Re: Please send feedback to me re this CBHE form

Larry, Thursday, September 20, 2001

I may be confused and so ask to be informed.

It was my understanding that the **new CBHE General Education criteria** (see below) were passed some **2 years ago**. I remember discussing with Bibie Chronwall, at least a year or a year and a half ago, the need to give this issue **sufficient time for discussion**. It was my understanding that the **Undergraduate Council** was going to do this, had done this, or ... ?

With this background, I wonder how you anticipate to produce a campus-wide **consensus within the next two weeks**,

- when you give "people" (*just a couple of associate/assistant deans (=administrators) rather than curriculum councils in the academic units (=faculty, responsible for the degree programs)*) just the statements that the CBHE produced some 2 years ago;
- when you have apparently not received any input from UMKC units or held any discussions prior to this date (as all fields are empty);
- when you do not provide ANY instruction or information on the context of your request or of the specific questions raised by the CBHE request or requirement.

Is it true that the CBHE **requires that each campus post their results on a campus web page by October 3, 2001** ?

Is it true that the **campus will be held responsible, as campus and as each academic unit**, to comply with the new CBHE requirements for General Education, as they have been defined by the CBHE and as you want to have them posted on the UMKC website within a few weeks?

I may be cynical but I think (from within MY box) that the request by you, so delayed, is **irresponsible**. Be honest! Has this oversight been the result of too much time devoted to thinking "out-of-the-box" or could you give me a reasonable explanation ?

I have been more frank in this letter than may be politically prudent but this issue is very important for all our undergraduate degrees, and for the faculty that direct these!

I just copy Steve Ballard at this time and hope to get a real and reasonable explanation from you.

If major questions remain, I plan to introduce this issue, as a real **faculty concern**, on the agenda of the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Jakob