UMKC General Education Program
Charge to the General Education Program 2.0 Task Force

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Author: Barbara Bichelmeyer

Charge

The UMKC General Education Program 2.0 Task Force is charged with the review and re-design of the University’s General Education Program in order to meet existing requirements of the Higher Learning Commission and new requirements outlined in Missouri House Bill 2651: Higher Education Core Curriculum Transfer Act. It must achieve this while continuing to provide UMKC students with a high-quality, highly engaging educational experience that inspires their curiosity, and challenges their intellectual capacities with curricular breadth, depth, and interdisciplinary study that reflects the mission of the university. The core and emphasis of the program will be a clearly articulated focus on the skills, knowledge and values that UMKC students should demonstrate at the conclusion of their studies to demonstrate competence as individual citizens, professionals, and community leaders. At the end of the re-design process, all faculty will agree to support, to implement, and to continually refine the program which is developed, from a student-centric and data-driven perspective.

Program Requirements

The General Education Program should:
• be driven by clearly stated and measurable student learning outcomes that articulate the essential competencies which faculty strive to instill in all UMKC’s undergraduate students.
• retain those elements of the current curriculum that are demonstrated to be positive experiences for undergraduate students and that support student success (persistence and completion), and remove those elements of the current program that do not add value to students’ experience, or that are not implementable by faculty and staff.
• at minimum, meet all appropriate accreditor (HLC) and regulatory requirements (state).
• provide a baseline common denominator experience for undergraduate students in all degree programs, recognizing that requirements vary tremendously between programs.
• at best, provide experiences that will encourage students to demonstrate valued competencies guided by AAC&U LEAP outcomes including critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, communications skills, global thinking, culture and diversity, interdisciplinary thinking, civic engagement, ethical reasoning, problem solving, creativity, while also considering the university’s commitment to developing within students the skills of innovation and entrepreneurialism, and the capacities to experience failure with resilience.
• ensure students are highly engaged in valued co-curricular experiences such as research, internships, civic engagement, service learning, and cultural enrichment.
• be as student-centered and easy for students and their advisors to navigate as possible.
• be navigable for all student profiles that make up the undergraduate population at UMKC, including native students, transfer students, online students, international students, first-time full-time, part-time, and returning students.
• engage students in multiple experiences in which they are highly involved and highly valued members of learning community.
• hold faculty accountable to meet targeted student learning outcomes through appropriate assessments and evaluations, while at the same time allowing for academic freedom and independent action in the design and delivery of courses.
• allow for flexible delivery of courses, such that the program may be delivered on-campus, online, in competency-based formats, and in a variety of timeframes which include regular semesters, intensive sessions, and summer and weekend programs.
• be logistically easy and as expeditious to implement as possible, given the constraints put upon us by the Missouri legislature and our accrediting bodies.
• encourage all academic and administrative units to work together to provide students with a broad, deep, and interdisciplinary experience reflecting the entire university.

Task Force Processes and Deliverables

The General Education Program 2.0 Task Force should begin with the end-in-mind; to re-envision and reverse-engineer the current program. The work should be completed in phases, with reports released at the completion of each phase. Phases and reports should address:

1. Articulation of General Education Task Force members’ responsibilities, such as:
   • Understanding the national work focused on general education (AAC&U, etc.), on the previous UMKC general education revision process and on UMKC student learning outcome achievements based on student learning outcome data.
   • Serve as a representative of an academic area or university function, communicating regularly with constituents and with the task force members.
   • Regular attendance and active participation in meetings/activities and to appropriate preparation for discussions and decision making.
   • To prioritize decision making on what is in the best interest of student learning and student academic achievement for all UMKC undergraduate students.

2. Consideration of expressed concerns from students, faculty, and staff regarding the existing program, to identify any immediate opportunities to eliminate or mitigate the most severe problems with the current program.

3. Development and codification of processes, timelines, and rules of engagement by which the task force will complete its work, including voting and record-keeping.

4. Review of the existing curriculum to affirm or revise the competencies and experiences students are to derive from the General Education Program, including learning outcomes, curriculum goals and structures, and co-curricular requirements.

5. Design of metrics and processes by which success of the General Education Program will be measured, including student learning outcome assessments, student end-of-course evaluations, and program review and monitoring.

6. Specifications for implementation of the General Education Program, including any technical requirements, committee structures, policies, procedures, information systems, communications, marketing, faculty/staff training, and personnel support. As well as specifications regarding governance structure, implementation responsibility, and administrative oversight for the general education program.

7. Development of recommendations regarding budgetary considerations for implementation and maintenance of the General Education Program.

8. Development of a smooth and workable transition plan for moving from the current curriculum to the new General Education Program, including development of the process for general education program review and reporting on general education to the Higher Learning Commission.
Timeline

1) Members should be solicited by various responsible parties as soon as possible during Summer 2016.
2) The Task Force should convene as soon as possible in August and complete work by May 1, 2017.
3) The Task Force should take into account any necessary timelines for all-Faculty votes and approvals from the Registrar and Provost.
4) The Task Force should be prepared to issue monthly reports to Faculty Senate by the first Tuesday in December, 2016.

*Membership*

**Sponsor:**
Deputy Provost / Cindy Pemberton

**Non-voting Co-chairs:**
General Education Coordinator / Jennifer Waddell
Arts and Sciences Faculty member elected by majority of College / TBD

**Voting members:**
University College Associate Vice Provost / Kim McNeley
Director of Assessment / Ruth Cain
**Academic unit representatives – one faculty member per unit, with the exception of the College of Arts and Sciences, which should appoint three members, one from arts and humanities, one from social sciences, and one from natural sciences**
Academic unit representatives – one advisor per unit, with the exception of the College of Arts and Sciences, which should appoint three members, one from arts and humanities, one from social sciences, and one from natural sciences
University Curriculum Committee representative
General Education Curriculum Committee representative
University Assessment Committee representative
Online Learning Advisory Committee representative
Honors College representative
Libraries representative
Non-tenure track faculty representative to be selected by faculty senate***
Adjunct faculty representative to be selected by faculty senate ***

**Ex-Officio (Non-voting) Members:**
Transfer Officer
Finance representative
Registrar representative
Institutional Research representative
Student Government Association representative
Trustee / Alumni / Community representative
Metropolitan Community College representative

*Two members of task force will be selected by the Provost to represent UMKC to the Missouri Department of Higher Education committee that is charged with implementation of Missouri House Bill 2651: Higher Education Core Curriculum Transfer Act

**Faculty members should have experience with curriculum maps for each academic program in academic unit

*** Elections for these positions will be run through Faculty Senate.