UNLV Faculty Senate
General Education Committee

Report to the Faculty Senate Chair on Committee Activities in the 2023-2024 Academic Year

May 28, 2024

The UNLV Faculty Senate General Education Committee (FSGEC) had a productive 2023-2024 academic year. The committee performed its normal duties throughout the year, held well-attended monthly meetings, and considered student and course petitions. The committee also completed its normal set of annual charges. It continued to perform extra research on the state of General Education at UNLV in collaboration with the Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate and High-Impact Education.

COMMITTEE CHARGES FOR 2023-2024

The primary charges for this committee are, as detailed in the Faculty Senate Bylaws:
6.8 . . . shall periodically review policy regarding general education, recommending revisions in current policy whenever desirable. It shall also be responsible for

6.8.1 - Ruling on exceptions to the general education requirements and if necessary, granting modifications in the core requirements sufficient to restore previously existing graduation requirements in programs, departments or colleges.
6.8.2 - Reviewing content areas in the general education core, adding or deleting courses or content as necessary.
6.8.3 - Monitoring the general education program to ensure appropriate implementation.

After consultation with the Chair of the Faculty Senate, the committee was also charged with the following for 2023-23:

1) To formalize a plan for the recertification process and to recertify 1000+ GE class in the current curriculum.
2) To prepare a video on GE and introduce GE to students/ faculty.
3) To solicit milestone/ cumulative experience (ME/ CE) class syllabus and certify the class appropriateness as ME/ CE classes.
4) To survey of GE teaching faculty on their view on UULO
5) To conduct an election for chair of the committee for the 2023-24 academic year no later than March 15, 2024.
6) To generate a report on all activities, including record of committee meetings and attendance, delivered to the Chair of the Faculty Senate no later than May 12, 2024.

In the rest of the report, we provide the details of the work that we performed.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS/ATTENDANCE 2023-2024

During the 2023-2024 AY, the committee met as necessary to complete committee business in a timely manner. We officially scheduled eight different FSGEC meetings on Fridays on the following dates:

- September 8, 2023
- October 6, 2023
- November 3, 2023
- December 1, 2023
- February 9, 2024
- March 1, 2024
- April 5, 2024
- May 3, 2024

All committee meetings are hosted on Zoom, with meeting minutes and transcripts kept for recording purposes. Zoom polling functions are used to facilitate the voting process. Committee meetings were well attended, and a quorum was achieved at every meeting. Committee membership in 2023-2024 was as follows:

Position	Name	Terms expiration date
Committee Chair and representative from College of Hospitality	Cass Shum	June 30, 2024
Representative from School of Business	Bill Robinson	June 30, 2024
Representative from College of Education	Shaoan Zhang	June 30, 2025
Representative from College of Engineering	Melissa Morris	June 30, 2025
Representative from College of Fine Arts	Dolly Kelepecz	June 30, 2025
Representative from Division of Health Sciences (Integrated Health Sciences, Public Health, and Nursing)	Chad Hensley	June 30, 2024
Representative from Honor College	Michael Chin	June 30, 2025
Representative from College of Liberal Arts	Lisa Johnson	June 30, 2025
Representative from College of Science	Hanqing Pan	June 30, 2025
Representative from College of Urban Affairs	Laura Martinez	June 30, 2024
Representative from University Libraries	Amber Sewell	June 30, 2025
Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Ex-Officio	Jacob Thompson	N/A
Undergraduate Education	Nicole Stella	N/A
Undergraduate Student Representative (2023-24)	Grant Anderson	June 30, 2024

Meeting attendance of the committee in 2023-2024 was as follows:

Meeting Date	**Sep 8**	**Oct 6**	**Nov 3**	**Dec 1**	**Feb 9**	**Mar 1**	**Apr 5**	**May 3**
Cass Shum	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bill Robinson	P (SZ)	X	X	O	X	P (AS)	X	X
Shaoan Zhang	X	P (CS)	X	P (CS)	X	X	X	X
Melissa Morris	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dolly Kelepecz	X	P (MM)	P (CS)	X	X	X	X	X (MC)
Chad Hensley	X	X	P (AS)	P (MC)	X	P (LJ)	X	X
Michael Chin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lisa Johnson	X	X	X	O	X	X	X	X
Hanqing Pan	X	O	P (SZ)	X	X	X	X	X (SZ)
Laura Martinez	X	X	P (MC)	X	X	P (MC)	X	X
Amber Sewell	X	X	X	X	X	X	P (MC)	X
Jacob Thompson	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nicole Stella	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grant Anderson	X (Hieu Nguyen)	X	X	X	X	X	X	O

X = Present; P = Proxy; O = Absent

COMMITTEE WORK/ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2023-2024

Committee business during our meetings normally consists of student General Education petitions and General Education course petitions. For this academic year, we also completed work associated with our charges, special charge as required by the Chair of Faculty Senate (Bill Robinson), and performed research in concert with the Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate and High-Impact Education (Jacob Thompson) to determine new procedures and address certain structural features of General Education. While some activities are conducted with the whole committee regularly at our meetings, others are conducted with subcommittees outside of committee meeting times.

STUDENT PETITIONS

During the academic year 2023-2024, the committee considered and voted on a recording number of 30 student petitions, approving 22 and denying 8. Details of the petition class and the rationales behind the decisions are listed below:

Student initial	**Petition class**	**Requirement**	**Decision**
A.L.	Previous fine art classes	Fine arts	Approved
K.K.	THTR 481	international	Approved (Advising difference caused by change of major)
D.P.	ENG 298	humanities	Approved (Advising errors, petition submitted by advisor)
K.G.	previous music performance (i.e., MUS, MUSA, and MUSE) classes	fine arts	Approved (also 3-credit, other classes contribute to learning)
T.C.	AP music theory exam score	fine arts	Denied (no course credit is given to AP Music theory, and does not fulfill the GE requirement)
B.G.	Previous credits	SYS	Approved (59.05 transferred in credits is close to the 60 requirements; some credits are lost during transfer)
L.L.	LAND 455	International	Approved (relevant class content, student has lots of credits)
M.C.	ENG 411B/ ENG211	humanities	Denied (the class has not been took, and the class are not humanities)
D.A.	CSUN ENG 115	ENG 102	Denied (the student is currently enrolled in ENG 102; the petition course is not comparable to ENG 102)
K.D.	SOC 20 from Mt San Antonio College	third and final social science requirement	Approved (Advising error; lots of credits)

D-J. A.	COM 216	second humanities requirement	Denied (Contents are too similar, no proof of advising errors)
A.V.	FILM 497	International	Approved (relevant class content, advisor support)
E-N. K.	AIS101	multicultural	Denied (The class traditionally satisfies the international requirement instead of the multi-cultural requirement)
C.N.	HIST 279	second humanities requirement	Approved (Advising error; lots of credits)
I.R.A.H.	ART 466 (transfer from Roman Art and Architecture, USAC)	Fine art	Approved (Similar content, FSGEC's support of travel aboard)
G.P.	Previous credits	SYS	Approved (59 transferred in credits is close to the 60 requirements; some credits are lost during transfer)
L.L.B.	Previous credits	SYS	Approved (55 transferred in credits is close to the 60 requirements; the student has 25 prior credits)
D.D.C.	FAB 333	Social science	Approved (Advising error)
A.A.	Previous writing experience	ENG 102	Approved (Student has prior publication near Ph.D. level; lots of transferred in credits)
C.Z.	LAS 199	Social science	Approved (Advisor approval; the student is close to graduation with an excellent academic record)
K.G.	CRJ 270	third and final social science requirement	Approved (The student is close to graduating; the student's record indicates other experiences in social science and fine arts classes.)
A.J.	PSY 101	third and final social science requirement	Approved (Prefix difference results in potential confusion).
A.M.	ART 495 (transfer from Renaissance Art and Architecture, USAC)	Fine art	Approved (Similar content, FSGEC's support of travel aboard)
S.B.	HUM 101, HUM 201, POL 130, and SOC 120 from Community Christian College	analytical thinking, fine art, US Constitution, and social science	Denied (Classes not comparable to GE classes, College not regionally accredited)
A.V.	ECON 180	third and final social science requirement	Approved
B.H.	PSC 101 and PSC LD0ZT	social science requirement	Approved (Advising error)

Student initial	Petition class	Requirement	Decision
H.S.	HON 440	social science requirement	Denied (The class is listed as a multicultural class, the advisor is not supportive of the petition)
K.Z.	COM 211	second humanities requirements	Denied (There is no clear evidence of advising errors, and students are expected to take two humanities from two areas)
S.G.	Previous credits	SYS	Approved (58 transferred in credits is close to the 60 requirements; some credits are lost during transfer)
E.P.	CSN PHO 101 B	Fine arts requirements	Approved (Some evidence of advising error). The student is advised to work closely with the advisor.

COURSE PETITIONS

At this same time, the committee also considered and voted on twelve-course petitions, approving ten, denying one, and tabling one - pending to the class to be further developed.

1. **Approved** JOUR 112 (Introduction to Digital and Social Media) - an existing course, revised and approved by FSCC, seeking to be included in the Social Science Course Distribution
2. **Approved** JOUR 111 (Introduction to Sports and Entertainment Media) - a new course approved by FSCC - to fulfill Social Science Distribution
3. **Approved** ENG 486B (Postcolonial Literature: Local, Global, Postcolonial: Theories and Debates) - a new course approved by FSCC - to be an International Course
4. **Approved** EDU 107X (The Pursuit of Happiness: A Joyful Humanities Exploration Across the Globe) - a new course approved by FSCC - to be an international course and humanities course. The non-X version of the class will also be approved, assuming the course remains the same with no changes.
5. **Approved** HSC 100B and HSC 100BX (College Success: Navigating Academic Well-Being) - a new course approved by FSCC - to be a First-Year Seminar course.
6. **Approved** ENG 209 (Introduction to English Studies) - a new course approved by FSCC - to be a milestone experience course.
7. **Approved** ENG 498B (English Capstone) - a new course approved by FSCC - to be a culmination experience course
8. **Approved** COM133 (Culture and Communication) - a new course approved by FSCC - petition to fulfill the multicultural requirement of general education.
9. **Tabled** COM 412 (Intercultural Communication) - a new course approved by FSCC - petition to fulfill the international requirement of general education. The petition is tabled because this class is still under development. It will be tabled until the new faculty member develops the class so that the committee can review the final version of the course.

10. **Approved** WLC 123X (Topics in East Asian Popular Culture) - a new course approved by FSCC - to fulfill the humanities course distribution and international general education course requirements. The non-X version of the course will need to submit a separate petition as pop culture class is usually more in-line with social science instead of humanities.
11. **Denied** HON 496 (Service-Learning Honors) - an existing course revised and approved by FSCC - petition to fulfill multicultural general education course requirement. Petition is denied because of the prerequisite requirement (SYS, which also requires FYS and ENG 102), the changing nature of the class, and the level of the class (400-level).
12. **Approved** COE 214X (Race & the US and Nevada Constitutions) - a new course approved by FSCC - petition to fulfill the general education non-distribution core course requirement (US and Nevada Constitution requirements), pending to credit requirement verification to ensure the class is 3-4 credits. The non-X version of the class will also be approved, assuming the course remains the same with no changes.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHARGES

The committee was also charged with five specific charges (SC) for the 2023-2024 AY, per the request of the Chair of Faculty Senate (Bill Robinson). Additionally, the committee conducted additional charges (AC) related to the constitution's general education requirement.

SC1. Make a short video outlining the duties and responsibilities of the Committee.
SC3. To prepare a video on GE and introduce GE to students/ faculty.

A video was made to outline the FSGEC, its composition, the related website, charge, and its responsibilities. The video also describes the UNLV General Education Requirement and UULOs. Finally, the procedure for student and course petition approval process are explained. The video can be found at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UvhJDgbdXuMMZ6fpogKJ1BfzUEIICoHX.
Part of the videos are used in the survey on UULOs (see SC 5)

SC2. To formalize a plan for the recertification process and to recertify 1500+ GE class in the current curriculum.

Over the years, many courses have been approved and added to the UNLV general education curriculum. However, as time passed, some courses may no longer be offered/ relevant. Currently, there are over 1750 GE Classes. Recertification can allow the committee to remove irrelevant and inappropriate courses from the General Education curriculum. Emails were sent to colleges, schools, and departments to inform them of the upcoming recertification. Additionally, all FSGEC members were asked to circulate the news in their home department/ colleges/ schools.

Based on works from previous years, the committee revised the recertification requirements to include (1) prerequisite (the number and the level of prerequisite), (2) GE utilization (the number of times a class is being utilized as a general education class of currently enrolled students, using the record from 2022 Spring), (3) year the class is last offered. The committee decided that a class will be “auto-rejected” if they have too many prerequisite requirements OR if the class is no longer relevant (i.e., the class was not commonly used as general education AND is not offered recently). All other classes are “auto-approved” for 10

years (i.e., till 2035). Departments are allowed to submit petitions for reconsideration to opt out of approved classes and opt-in of rejected classes.

The committee has recertified the fine art class (24 classes approved, 5 classes rejected, 1 class pending). It will continue its work on other GE distribution and core requirements (social science, humanities, life and physical sciences, analytical thinking, FYS, SYS, English Composition, Constitutions, Maths, Multicultural, International) in 2024-2025. It needs to make decision related to the number of prerequisites, considering potential prerequisites in terms of level (number of credits) and stacking prerequisites.

In the process of recertification, the committee found that Honors College's General Education classes (HON 420, HON 430, HON 440) are in a special topic format with varying content, requiring SYS (and FYS, ENG 102) as a prerequisite. More details can be found in the S4 part of this report.

SC4. To solicit milestone/ cumulative experience (ME/ CE) class syllabus and certify the class appropriateness as ME/ CE classes.

With the help of the Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate and High-Impact Education (Jacob Thompson), most ME/ CE class syllabi are obtained. It was recommended that all ME/ CE course syllabi include a statement like, "this course satisfies the UNLV General Education requirement for the Milestone [or Culminating] Experience for the _____ degree program," with a link to the hallmarks that the ME or CE course is supposed to meet. It can make faculty think about what the courses are supposed to do and help raise awareness about these requirements for both faculty and students.

A subcommittee of Mike Chin, Dolly Kelepecz, Hanqing Pan, Melissa Morris, and Nicole Stella approached the task of evaluating submitted syllabi to assess whether they met the new standards. In consideration of each subcommittee member's discipline and practical logistics, committee members were assigned syllabi for their colleges and 0-3 related fields. Subcommittee members recorded their findings on a shared Google spreadsheet. The subcommittee completed approximately 80% completion rate for the assigned reviews.

- Completed evaluations: Engineering (16), Nursing (3), Public Health (6), Education (6), CoLA (50), College of Fine Arts (24), Business (19), and GCUA (18). Of the 51 evaluated milestone classes, 43 classes (i.e., 84%) fulfilled the new standards, 2 did not fulfill the standards, and 6 are borderline cases that need additional information. Of the 53 evaluated cumulative experiences classes, 46 classes (i.e., 87%) fulfilled the new standards, 5 did not fulfill the standards, and 2 were borderline cases that needed additional information.
- Evaluation pending: Hospitality (6), Science (11), and Health Sciences (19. The numbers in parentheses denote the number of syllabi submitted for review in each college in an effort to delegate a reasonably equitable workload among subcommittee members. The remaining will be completed by the members throughout the summer. Upon completion, the FSGEC committee will need to share the findings with the corresponding college in the next academic year and work with faculty to ensure classes can fulfill the new standards.

SC5. To survey of GE teaching faculty on their view on UULO

Given the lack of familiarity with GE among faculty, it was decided in 2022-2023 that the next stage of communication should focus on educating faculty on GE. Additionally, given the changing nature of higher education, an update of UULOs may be needed. The first part of the email/ survey educates faculty on GE and provides links to related websites. The second part of the survey focuses on understanding faculty attitudes toward current UULOs and potential changes. A subcommittee (including Cass Shum, Shaoan Zhang, Amber Sewell, Jacob Thompson) was formed to survey GE teaching faculty on their view on UULO. A survey has been created with four sections (Questions on familiarity with UNLV's general education core and distribution requirements; Questions on familiarity with UNLV's UULOs; Question on usage of UULOs in your classes or programs; Questions on perceived effectiveness of UULOs). The survey is distributed to all faculty in late April. In the next academic year, the FSGEC committee will need to review the results of this survey.

AC1. Constitution requirement and feedback

The State Law requires including the instruction of the US Constitution and Nevada Constitution within NSHE. The Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate and High-Impact Education (Jacob Thompson) brings the lack of formal requirements and criteria for UNLV Constitution Class to the committee's attention. As a post-hoc remedy, the committee formulates a new standard for UNLV US Constitution and Nevada Constitution classes based on NSHE Constitutions Discipline Committee recommendations and UNR Constitution Description, considering the specific circumstances of UNLV Constitution classes. As the UNLV Constitution classes have varying credits, specific languages were added to ensure that 3-credit courses that fulfill both U.S. and Nevada Constitution requirements can only focus on Constitution. It is also decided that there should be no change to the constitution class credit requirement. The updated Constitution requirements are posted on the General Education Core Requirements website (https://www.unlv.edu/provost/gen-ed/core).

With the help of The Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate and High-Impact Education and the cooperation of colleges, schools, and departments' representatives, all UNLV constitution class syllabi were solicited. A subcommittee (including Bill Robinson, Chad Hensley, and Lisa Johnson) was formed to provide feedback to the constitution classes, ensuring their fulfillment of the newly formed constitution requirements. They evaluated 8 US Constitution classes, 6 Nevada Constitution classes, and 5 classes that aim to fulfill both. Of the US Constitution classes, 6 met the requirements, while 2 were borderline cases. Of the 6 Nevada Constitution classes, 3 met the requirements, 3 classes need to be improved. Of the 5 classes that aim to fulfill both requirements, 3 met the requirements, while two classes need to strengthen the Nevada constitution part of the requirements. The insights will be shared with the Dean and department chair of the corresponding department. In the next academic year, the FSGEC committee should work with faculty in those classes that have yet to meet the requirements to ensure compliance.

OTHER COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

The committee considered a variety of relevant topics at its meetings beyond its charges. These included the following:

S1. XXX-class

The current General Education curriculum includes rules that include certain classes under some prefixes as part of the GE curriculum (e.g., Any HIST class can fulfill humanities; Any PHYS class can fulfill science). This rule makes it easy to determine if a course fulfills an area. However, this rule also allows higher-level classes and specific (e.g., independent study) to be included in the General Education curriculum. It also makes recertification of those classes impossible. All committee members were asked to solicit feedback from their home college, school, and department related to the issue. In the future, additional discussion should be made on this nuisance.

S2. Double-dipping

Although current UNLV general education only allows the double-dipping of multicultural and international courses, the rules are not universally adhered to. The class that has double-dipping includes distribution area classes double-dipped with ME/CE classes, Distribution area classes double-dipped with FYS/ SYS classes, constitution class double-dipped with social science/humanities. All committee members were asked to solicit feedback from their home college, school, and department related to the issue. In the future, additional discussion should be made on addressing the inconsistency in the double-dipping rule implementation.

S3. ESL 174

ESL 174 was first approved as FYS in April 2022. It is only taught in Fall 2022. However, it has yielded confusion because other ESL courses only count for credit towards enrollment but not toward graduation. To avoid confusion, ESL 174 was removed from General Education until it finds a department home and gets updated with the course code. A new course petition will need to be made.

Although the 2022-2023 committee initialized the discussion on whether all ESL courses should fulfill the General Education International requirement, the discussion was tabled and did not proceed in 2023-2024. While there are merit that taking an ESL course demonstrates fluency in a non-English language, the fact that ESL course credit only counted towards enrollment but not graduation may present additional challenges and may create confusion.

S4. Honors College Special Topic Classes

HON 420, HON 430, and HON 440 were approved as fine-art international/ multicultural courses. However, as a special topic seminar course, the specific topic depends on the class, the semester, and the instructors. Honor College was informed to send FSGEC an updated syllabus whenever they have it. Honor College will also remind all faculty teaching HON 430 and HON 440 stay true to the general requirement for international and multicultural courses. FSGEC may rethink the future approval of special topic classes and reevaluate such special topics classes during re-certification. Future FSGEC chairs will need to keep up with their updated syllabus whenever available.

The Dean and Committee of Honors College were invited to the May 3 meeting to elaborate on the need for such classes. They elaborated on the necessity of having 400-level Honor special topic classes to ensure the success of Honors College in maintaining FTE, ensuring students' interest, and keeping Honors College unique. The SYS requirement is necessary to ensure students' success in those classes. There are discussions of waiving Honor College's General Education requirement. However, there are concerns about Honors College drop-outs. A follow-up meeting was scheduled on May 8 to discuss possible solutions, which

include keeping the Honor College General Program as-is, changing the Honor College General education classes (specifically, the special topic classes), adding Honor College as a major to waive certain General Education distribution area requirements, and waving Honor College student's basic general education. It is agreed that any solution will need to be properly documented to avoid future concerns. The committee will continuously work with Honor College on its general education courses to ensure minimal disruption while aligning Honors College general education classes with other general education class requirements. The committee also invites Honors College to continue the discussion next academic year.

S5. University Study Abroad Consortium

As more students are going to study abroad, there may be a need for blanket approval for the University Study Abroad Consortium (USAC) course. This long-term practice can reduce the committee's burden on individual student petitions while ensuring continuity. It is the FSGEC's position to be supportive as long as the course offered by the study abroad program is close to the general education requirement. One possibility is to ask the study abroad office to offer a list of course titles, preapprove these classes based on committee discussion, and empower the chair to approve those classes.

OSA Gregory Stephany was invited to the committee meeting in April and shared the list of course titles of the USAC courses. He indicated that a blanket approval of all classes may be infeasible as it involves over 1000 classes. He also suggested that the programs will be smoother as they transition to the TES system. Some short-term fixes include the preapproval of classes in selected areas and the preapproval of classes on a course-by-course basis.

To ensure continuity among FSGEC, it is recommended that the committee can form a form/ rubric that can be set on criteria for each general education requirement in the future.

S6. General education waiver program for out-of-state student Arizona General Education Curriculum

We currently have a Gen Ed articulation agreement with the state of California. That agreement was approved by the FSGEC. The agreement allows students transferring from a California community college, with completion of the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or California State University General Education (GE) Breadth requirements, certified on an official transcript on or after August 23, 2017, will have all UNLV General Education Core Requirements waived, with the exception of the Nevada Constitution requirement and the ENG 102 requirement. All transfer students must complete the Milestone and Culminating experiences designated for their majors.

A similar agreement was made with the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) Arts (A), Business (B) or Sciences (S) from an accredited institution in Arizona. Specifically, the Student completes the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) Arts (A), Business (B) or Sciences (S) from an accredited institution in Arizona and UNLV accepts completion of the degree as completion of the UNLV General Education (GE) requirements with the exception of the one-credit Nevada Constitution requirement. The agreement is approved by FSGEC. In the future, the Admissions and Recruitment team will continuously work with other colleges to build similar agreements.

Committee Work during the Summer

To follow the 2022-2023 norm, a subcommittee of 3-5 members is formed to resolve any business that comes up during the summer. A volunteer subcommittee was assigned for Summer 2023 at the April meeting. In the future, the committee should formalize the procedure in the committee bylaws.

Chair election and Committee Representation

Cass Shum was reelected as the FSGEC committee chair for 2024-2026. The outgoing committee member was identified. A reminder was given to the departments to ensure the continuity of colleges and schools' representation in the committee.

FINAL NOTE

The committee maintained its commitment to committee transparency and record preservation by distributing all committee documents electronically and by preserving all committee documents—most importantly, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, all meeting presentation files, and student and course petitions—on a shared electronic drive.

This report is respectfully submitted to Dr. Bill Robinson, the outgoing Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Debbie Arteaga, the incoming Faculty Senate Chair, and Dr. Jacob Thompson, The Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate and High-Impact Education, on May 28, 2024.

Dr. Cass Shum
Chair, Faculty Senate General Education Committee