

Attachment #1

Elements of Gen Ed Proposal for Discussion at October 31 special meeting of Faculty Senate

GERC Proposal Element	Rationale	Questions for 10/31 straw poll
<p><u>Writing Courses</u></p> <p>Reinstate the original elements of the W designation, putting a class size limit of 25 on all W courses to make this feasible for course instructors.</p>	<p>There are few who would argue with the idea of writing-across-the-curriculum. The Gen Ed Survey last spring overwhelmingly supported the retention of W courses but only with changes made to increase their effectiveness. For budgetary reasons in the late 1990s, class size limits for W courses were raised and the original elements for designation as a W course were made optional. Reinstatement of the original intentions of the W initiative is expected to increase their effectiveness, while changing the number of W's required will preserve some measure of cost savings.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should we reinstate the original 1988 guidelines for the W designation? 2. If we reinstate the original 1988 guidelines, should we put a class size limit of 25 on all W courses? 3. If W courses are capped at 25, should we reduce the number of required W courses from 4 to 3 if necessitated by budgetary concerns?
<p><u>Diversity Courses</u></p> <p>Add more explicit encouragement of diversity by creating a D designation for courses (similar to W for writing courses)—the criteria for which would be recommended by GERC and approved by Faculty Senate—and encourage students to take these courses through advisement.</p>	<p>It is vital for our students to grow in their understanding of diversity. This is part of our University's mission. It is important that this occurs in co-curricular activities, as well as in coursework. We recommend the creation of a D designation for courses and recommend that advisors and students use this designation during the advisement process. While "diversity" has many different meanings, we recommend using the objective below to inform course designation. <u>Proposed diversity objective:</u> Students will grow in their engagement with peoples of diverse histories and communities, both inside and outside the United States. Aligned with Characteristic 2.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should we establish a D designation for diversity courses and require all students to take one D course? 2. Should we establish a D designation for diversity courses and encourage students through advisement to take these courses?
<p><u>"2-Course" Rule</u></p> <p>Eliminate the requirement that exactly two courses must be taken from a single department in each G block.</p>	<p>The "at least two but no more than two" rule was an effort to legislate depth while not sacrificing breadth, but it has caused excess complexity and confusion. With a commitment to increasing flexibility and simplicity (Characteristic 6) in a revised curriculum, these restrictions should be lifted. Breadth and depth are encouraged by good advisement, the distribution of courses into three academic blocks, P courses, and increased interdisciplinarity in the curriculum.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should we eliminate the requirement that exactly two courses must be taken from a single department in each G block?