

Colleagues:

Two issues are up for a vote in Faculty Senate on Monday, so I wanted to make sure all faculty were aware of the issues in case they wanted to express opinions to their senators.

To understand the issues that will be voted on, allow me to recap the current status of our newly approved GE model.

1. All students must take a 12-credit first-year experience (USEM equivalent).
2. All students must take a 3-to-4 credit lower-division course in each of the following capacities (only one of which may double-dip with their major): Communication & Expression, Creativity & Innovation, EDI, Inquiry & Analysis, and Numerical Literacy.
3. All students must take an upper-division EDI class (major double-dipping here was never addressed in the original Senate vote).
4. All students must choose two 3-to-4 credit upper-division courses from two different capacities in Communication & Expression, Creativity & Innovation, Inquiry & Analysis, or Numerical Literacy (but only one of those courses may double-dip with major).

**The first issue is a motion to allow 1 and 2-credit GE capacity courses to be developed in the upper-division, but with a restriction that students will not be permitted to take more than 4 credits from any single course prefix or in any single GE capacity.**

Proponents of this change appreciate the flexibility it would offer students to sample from more capacities and programs and to engage with immersive experiential learning opportunities that might not otherwise be available in 3 or 4-credit options. Opponents have largely expressed concerns about the added complexity for students and the likelihood that some students will end up having to pay for additional GE credits if not enough 1 or 2-credit options are made available (in other words, registering for a 4-credit course to satisfy a 1-credit need because no 1-credit options are available). I'll note here that the Transforming GE Task Force could not reach a consensus on this issue because we saw merit in both arguments, which is why we have asked Faculty Senate to make a decision.

**The second issue is a motion to remove major double-dipping restrictions from the new GE model and replace it with a disciplinary course prefix cap of 4 credits per prefix in the lower-division and 4 credits per prefix in the upper-division.**

By removing the major double-dipping restriction, this change incentivizes more interdisciplinarity within majors. During last week's Senate debate, however, concerns were raised that this would do too much to reduce liberal arts exploration, such that students could take their GE in only five course prefix areas (example: a student takes one course each in COMM, DCIN, EMDA, MTH, and GSWS in the lower-division, then repeats COMM, DCIN, and EMDA in the upper-division).

Subsequent to this debate, at-large senator Christopher Lucas contacted me to express his intention of proposing **an amendment to this motion to instead set the course prefix cap at 4 credits per prefix across the entire GE**. This would mean students would have to sample a minimum of 8 prefix areas (with an opportunity to sample more if the 1 and 2-credit UD option is

passed) because they could not repeat a prefix in the lower and upper-division requirements. I would consider this a friendly amendment and would support the change. However, if senators decide they would like to discuss this amendment further before making a change, we can table the motion until Winter term and decide it then.

I understand that this may be difficult for some to follow if you have not been deeply engaged in GE conversations, so I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks, and have a wonderful holiday weekend!

Andrew Gay