

ABRIDGED TIMELINE OF THE GENED PROGRAM & THE NEED FOR REVISION

A ONE-PAGER

- 1985 A *GenEd Program* is established and implemented at Shippensburg University
- 1999 *General Education Study Group* is formed to look at ways to improve the GenEd Program
- 2000 A Diversity requirement and tag is added to the curriculum
- 2003 *GenEd Coordinating Committee (GECC)* and *GenEd Grants Program* are established by the Provost's Office to improve the quality of student experiences in the GenEd program
- 2006 *GECC Self-Study; GECC Program Review Report* to PASSHE; and the *GECC 2006 Five-Year Review*
- 2007 A formal assessment of the GenEd Program begins
- 2008 UCC Approves proposal to add *GenEd Special Topics Courses* (e.g., ABC190) to the program
- 2008 Faculty Survey, Open Forums (2) and Mini-Retreat (1) re: the current GenEd Program model
- There was no single part of the current program that a majority of the faculty objected to; however, not-insignificant proportions of the faculty had issues with every part of the current program. *More than half of respondents opined the program should be rebuilt from scratch.*
 - There were a number of general changes that received more than 60% support:
 - Add more advanced courses [note – too many ‘intro to nowhere’ courses]
 - Allow more flexibility [note – the predominant thread indicated a need for more electives]
 - Improve the interdisciplinary nature of the program
 - Foster more “writing across the curriculum”
 - Improve the focus on ethics
- 2009 Middle States Report re: GenEd – generally positive, but indicated two needs for revision:
- Suggested we add a second writing course
 - Recommended we use our assessment data to achieve program improvement
- 2010 GenEd Retreat - department and program representatives approved guiding principles for developing a new GenEd Program model
- Develop an entry-year experience [note - to improve retention rates]
 - Develop a capstone experience [note- in collaboration with departments]
 - Achieve greater depth of content
 - Improve flexibility
 - Many extant learning objectives are not easily [i.e., transparently or objectively] assessable
 - Establish clear and transparent “vetting” processes for adding/removing courses participating in the program and for revising the program.
- 2011 Faculty campus-wide vote to approve a proposal to change the *Governance Document* and to establish the *General Education Council (GEC)*
- 2011 The GEC develops by-laws and delegates two responsibilities to its *GEC Program Committee*:
- Vet curriculum proposals relating to general education courses
 - Continue efforts to reform the SU General Education program (the target is still Aug. 2015).
- 2013 Shippensburg University *Academic Master Plan, Draft* (Sept. 13, 2013) ‘Strategy E’
- “Establish a process and mechanism for the periodic review and revision of the general education curriculum to ensure it meets the needs of 21st century students and workers. The entry-year experience and general education curriculum should be informed by and reflect one another.”
- Biology Department submits a proposal to reduce the total GenEd load for its majors.
- The GEC voted (Oct. 29, 2013) to approve a Process and Timeline for considering revisions to the Program.