

Committee on General Education

Report to Faculty Senate for AY 2015-16

Committee Members: Derek Taylor (Chair), Lily Goetz, Melanie Marks, Sara Miller, Tom Wears

Expenditures: Out of a total budget of \$10,000 for AY 15-16, roughly \$6100 has been spent or allocated as of April 18:

1. Support for Goal 1 and Goal 13 Summer Workshops: \$300
2. Support for faculty professional development travel: \$2300
3. Support for General Education Film Series: \$2000<sup>1</sup>
4. Honorarium for Guest Lecturer (Goals 3 and 8): \$500
5. Honorarium for Guest Speaker (Goal 8): \$1000
6. Support for Teaching and Learning Institute: (May 19, 2016): TBD
7. Dues for ACTC: TBD

New/Revised General Education Courses: Only one proposal came our way this year—namely, that KINS 398: Ethics in Sports and Physical Education, which was formerly taught by HARK faculty, be cross-listed as PHIL 398 so that Philosophy faculty can offer sections. The committee unanimously supported this revision and passed materials on to EPC.

Assessment of General Education Courses: After consulting with the Office of Institutional Research, the committee decided to review assessment data for all general education courses on a three-year cycle. Since there are 14 goals, this entails dividing the work up into not-quite thirds—e.g., goals 1-4 in AY 14-15, goals 5-9 in AY 15-16, and goals 10-14 in AY 16-17. The current iteration of general education is slated to be replaced (gradually) beginning in AY 17-18.

Promotion of Faculty Development related to Vice Presidential Debate: For obvious reasons, Longwood did not have any clear curricular touchstone in place (when the good news came) for those faculty interested in linking course offerings in 2016-17 to the Vice Presidential Debate. Part of this committee’s purview as defined by the *FPPM* is to “Encourage the teaching and learning of written and oral communication skills throughout the University, and consider and evaluate different policies designed to improve competence in written and oral communication”—a natural fit with the types of courses (both general education and otherwise) likely to connect well with the debate. After consulting with both

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<sup>1</sup> Attendance figures were as follows:

<i>Citizenfour</i>	16-Sep	18
<i>Timbuktu</i>	21-Oct	34
<i>Zero Motivation</i>	18-Nov	29
<i>From the Wings</i>	24-Feb	6
<i>Second Mother</i>	16-Mar	21
<i>Mistress America</i>	6-Apr	20

the Chair of Faculty Senate and the VPAA, the committee offered to serve alongside CAFE as the point of contact for faculty interested in revising and/or developing such courses. We also developed and used an evaluative rubric for vetting proposals so that faculty can be paid for their efforts—anywhere from \$500 to \$2000, depending on the level of work involved. We received over 30 proposals from over 10 different disciplines, and are currently working with the VPAA and the VP Debate Team to finalize funding.

Respectfully submitted,  
E. Derek Taylor, Director of General Education