



Via e-mail

July 8, 2013

To: Elaine Klein, Assistant Dean, College of Letters and Science; Chair of the Undergraduate General Education Committee

From: Jocelyn Milner, Director of Academic Planning and Institutional Research

RE: Report of the Undergraduate General Education Committee – May 2013 UAPC Meeting

Copies: Paul DeLuca, Jim Wollack, Chris Olsen, Mo Noonan Bischof

Elaine, I am writing to follow-up on the discussion of the report from the Undergraduate General Education Committee (UGEC) at the May 2013 UAPC meeting. The UAPC members were very appreciative of the presentation and enjoyed the opportunity to discuss general education and undergraduate education issues at length.

The minutes of the May UAPC meeting were approved at the June 25, 2013 UAPC meeting. Now that the minutes have been approved I wanted to let you know they are posted at, <http://apir.wisc.edu/uapc201213june.htm>.

The portion relevant to the UGEC discussion is as follows:

Elaine Klein, chair of the UGEC and assistant dean in the College of Letters and Science, and Jim Wollack, Research Director for General Education Assessment and Director of Testing and Evaluation, proceeded by providing an overview of the general education requirements for undergraduates, and the annual report. UAPC members were asked to provide feedback on two main questions: first, on a proposed process to modify general education requirements, and secondly whether the UGEC should investigate further the possibility of a gap in the general education requirements in relation to an international/global competency requirement.

On the question of process for change, UAPC members had several questions about how requirements were changed in the past, which groups would be responsible for approving changes, and what information is needed in order to approve changes to the general education requirements. Members suggested that the process for changes in the past would be a guide, recognizing that previous changes have been fairly minor. All generally agreed any approval process for major additions to and subtractions from the current requirements would be an iterative process that included study by the UGEC, wide consultation, and eventual formal approval by the UAPC, the University Committee and the Faculty Senate.

On the question of a gap in requirements, Klein explained that the UGEC had reviewed requirements in range of contexts and had identified a possible gap in the UW-Madison requirements around global/international competence. The UGEC was seeking guidance on whether this is a topic they should explore further. UAPC members asked many questions, including inquires about majors that currently require global experiences and what would be lost or gained by implementing another general education requirement. After much discussion, UAPC members collectively stated that if a group were to examine the issue of a global experience general education requirement, that UGEC should be the group that looks into the issue. Further, if the UGEC decides to explore this issue more deeply, then the UAPC will want to enter into discussions with them as their review progresses.

Thank you again for your important work on general education and for the annual UGEC report and presentation. Please let me know if you have any questions.