

University-Wide General Education Committee (UWGEC) Report to Faculty Senate for March 2, 2026 Meeting

Submitted by Jeremy Vetter, Associate Professor of History, UWGEC Chair

The University-Wide General Education Committee (UWGEC) is a shared governance body with 22 members, most of whom are faculty members representing Colleges that are active in teaching General Education courses, along with two student representatives, three Foundations area representatives, a library representative, and a chair appointed in consultation between the Chair of the Faculty and the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. A list of current UWGEC members can be found here: <https://ge.arizona.edu/gened-committee/uwgec-members>.

Since my last report, UWGEC has held two meetings, on February 4 and February 18, 2026. We have focused most of our attention on review and approval of courses in the new course category for Civic Institutions, as well as Building Connections and Exploring Perspectives courses with the two new attributes: Civic Exploration, Understand and Value Difference. We have also reviewed and approved other courses that have been submitted.

Beyond the initial cohort of civic implementation courses, which I included in my last UWGEC report in late January, we have approved the following courses for addition to the General Education curriculum:

ASTR 330 Astronomy in the Ancient World (BC, QR attribute)

CLAS 345 America and Antiquity: What the Study of Greece and Rome Taught America's Founders (CI, WCS attribute)

EHS 250 Occupational Health and Safety: Protecting the Modern Worker (BC, QR attribute)

ENGL 144 How to Change the World: A Study in Literature and Practice (EP-Humanist, UVD and Writing attributes)

ENTO 166 What Bugs Humans and How: The Insects and Arachnids That Transmit Disease and Their Impacts on Human and Animal Health (EP-Natural Scientist, QR attribute)

GHI 260 Creative Wellness: The Role of Arts in Public Health (BC, Writing attribute)

HIST 160C1 The Making of American Cultures to 1877 (CI, UVD and Writing attributes)

HIST 232 The Era of the American Revolution and Constitution (CI, Writing attribute)

HIST 246 History of American Capitalism (CI, QR attribute)

HIST/GWS 253 History of Women in the United States: Colonial America to 1890 (CI, UVD attribute)

PAH 250 Tying the Knot: Marriage in America (EP-Social Scientist, QR attribute)

Note: BC = Building Connections; CE = Civic Engagement; CI = Civic Institutions; EP = Exploring Perspectives; QR = Quantitative Reasoning; UVD = Understand and Value Difference; WCS = World Cultures & Societies

Please note that some of the courses listed above have already been approved by UWGEC but have not yet completed all routing stages that typically occur prior to this. Due to an unexpectedly lengthy delay in the updating of UAccess to be fully operational to accept proposals for the new category and attributes (CI, CE, and UVD), since their approval in faculty shared governance earlier last fall, we have proceeded with our review process in parallel with Curricular Affairs and other stages. This will allow these courses to move forward more expeditiously when they ultimately do reach us for approval, and to help facilitate the rollout of more options for students in the Civic implementation in 2026-27. We are anticipating several more courses in Civic Institutions, as well as courses with the new Civic Exploration and Understand and Value Difference attributes, to occupy much of our committee's time in the next few months, along with other courses that have been submitted. We have already received several more Civic Institutions proposals from multiple academic units in recent days, which we look forward to reviewing.

If anyone has questions about this, or any of the above, please contact me (jvetter@arizona.edu) and I will be happy to explain anything further or convey your feedback and comments to UWGEC.