

University-Wide General Education Committee (UWGEC) Report to Faculty Senate for April 6, 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 March 4 and March 25, 2026. We have continued to focus much of our attention on review and approval of courses in the new course category for Civic Institutions, with several of these received around the time of the announced target deadline of March 1 for spring 2027 catalog update. So far we have received 14 course proposals for Civic Institutions, including courses from CLAS, ECON, GLS/HRTS, HIST, LAW, and POL, and we expect more to come in later, for first offering in fall 2027 and beyond. And we have continued to review all other course proposals that have been routed to us, in Building Connections, Exploring Perspectives, and Foundations.

We also continue to roll out two new attributes for Gen Ed courses: (1) Civic Exploration and (2) Understand and Value Difference. We are working in close collaboration with the Office of General Education to offer pathways for existing Gen Ed courses to add these new attributes if well aligned with the student learning outcomes. For the Civic Exploration (CE) attribute, we are opening another special window through July 1 for all existing Gen Ed courses to request adding the CE attribute, using a simplified form, to recognize and identify existing courses across the Gen Ed curriculum that address one or more of the seven ABOR areas for American Institutions. While Civic Institutions courses in the new required course category must address all seven of these areas, in order to ensure all students have breadth in this curricular area, another crucial component of the civic implementation is through this depth attribute in Civic Exploration, across the curriculum in the Exploring Perspectives and Building Connections categories.

Since my last monthly report, we have approved the following courses for addition to the General Education curriculum:

AREC 150C Sustaining Life: The Global Economy of Food (BC, CE and UVD attributes)

ENGL 264 U.S. Popular Culture and the Politics of Representation (BC, Writing attribute)

GAME 201 Playing with Purpose: Art and History of Game Design (EP-Artist, Writing attribute)

GLS/HRTS 338 Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, and Human Rights (CI, UVD attribute)

HNRS 270 Problems to Possibilities (BC, QR and Writing attributes)

HNRS 271 Creative Practices and Methods (BC, Writing attribute)

KOR 352 Class, Gender, and Family in Korea (EP-Social Scientist, WCS and Writing attributes)

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

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.