

University-Wide General Education Committee (UWGEC) Report to Faculty Senate for May 4, 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 April 8 and 22, 2026. We have continued to make substantial progress on the implementation of the new course category in Civic Institutions, as well as the two new attributes: Civic Exploration; Understand and Value Difference. For the latter, a greatly simplified survey process was implemented to facilitate a less cumbersome attribute transition for courses that needed to add an attribute, with review currently occurring and approval expected at our final committee meeting on May 6. We are also hoping, with committee members working extra hard, to act on all courses received prior to our last biweekly review cycle, to make sure all of the proposers either receive an approval decision at our last meeting on May 6 or know what will be the required revisions so they can work on them over the summer.

During our past two meetings, to make necessary adjustments to other policies due to the civic implementation, we moved forward two minor policy revisions that will likely go to Undergraduate Council and Faculty Senate, among other steps. At our April 8 meeting, we approved a policy revision to the Undergraduate Transfer Credit Policy, which would now include Civic Institutions as a component of the curriculum but also (among other things) removes the specific language for guidelines for all General Education categories from the policy language as part of the general goal of streamlining catalog policy, and such guidelines would now reside instead on the Office of General Education website. Then, at our April 22 meeting, we approved a very minor policy revision to the Undergraduate Multiple Use of Courses policy to include Civic Institutions along with Exploring Perspectives and Building Connections as categories that can be counted for both General Education and major/minor requirements, up to 3 courses maximum. On April 22, we also

discussed and approved four recommendations from the Office of General Education for the (fairly restrictive) guidelines they will use for allowing course substitutions of University of Arizona courses to meet General Education requirements have not been approved as such. At our next meeting, assuming that the Transfer policy change mentioned above is approved by Faculty Senate in the meantime, we are also likely to consider similar guidelines for transfer credit in General Education across campus.

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

ECON 225 Civic Processes and the History of U.S. Financial Institutions (CI, QR attribute)

ECON 307 Introduction to U.S. Economic History (CI, QR attribute)

ENVS 275 Data Analysis for Life and Environmental Sciences (Foundations Math)

GLS 235 Global Fashion and Textiles: From Silk Roads to Sustainable Futures (EP-Humanist, UVD and Writing attributes)

HIST 239 Nuclear War and Civic Institutions (CI, QR attribute)

KOR 251 Introduction to Korea through Films (EP-Humanist, WCS attribute)

MCB 170C1 How Does Life Work? (BC, UVD attribute)

POL 205 The American Presidency (CI, Writing attribute)

POL 210 U.S. and Arizona Constitution (CI, Writing attribute)

RNR 150C1 Sustainable Earth: Natural Resources and the Environment (add CE attribute)

SOC 131 Living with AI: Social Life under Algorithmic Influence (BC, UVD attribute)

TLS 387 Introduction to Global Education (BC, UVD 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

We also approved BSM 197A for designation as a Success course, which is a task that is part of our assigned duties even though such courses are not part of the General Education curriculum.

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