MEMORANDUM

To: Curriculum Committee
From: General Education Committee
Date: 18 April, 2010
Subject: GENERAL EDUCATION RESTRUCTURING

The purpose of this memo is to recommend structural changes to the General Education program at DSC.

Issue 1: Complying with Board of Regents Policy

BOR policy R470-3.2 (see Attachment A) states that “in addition to completing all core requirements described in 3.1, students will be required to complete 18 to 27 credits beyond the General Education core.” Currently, our AS and BS students are required to complete only 15 BREADTH/DEPTH credits beyond the General Education core. We recommend a multifaceted approach to solve this shortcoming.

Recommendation:

1. Add a 3 credit exploration requirement to the Breadth/Depth. These three credits can be taken in any GE Breadth/Depth area but cannot have the same prefix as any other GE course taken.

2. Eliminate CIS as a core GE requirement. Instead we believe that technical training in CIS skills should be an institutional requirement associated with elective credit. Further, we would recommend a set of competency tests that act as a first gateway to earning elective credit for CIS1200. The course could be available for elective credit for those who do not attempt, or who fail to pass, the competency tests.

3. We recommend that LIB 1010 be retained as a GE requirement. However, we believe that the credit earned should be elective rather than GE. We recommend a set of competency tests that act as a first gateway to earning the credit for LIB 1010. The course as it exists would be available for those who do not attempt, or who fail to pass, the competency tests.

If adopted, these recommendations would bring us in to compliance with BOR policy R470-3. More importantly, we believe that adopting these recommendations would provide our students with a more comprehensive yet focused General Education program that will move them closer to the citizen-scholar ideal, both capable of, and inspired toward, the pursuit of life-long learning.

Issue 2: Fine Arts Area

Fine Arts is a Board of Regents mandated BREADTH/DEPTH area. We consider the study of the Fine Arts to be an indispensable component of a liberal arts education that belongs in any comprehensive general education program. However, under our current structure, students at DSC can graduate having never taken a single fine arts course. The reason for this is that several communications courses are offered for GE credit in our “Fine Arts/Communication” area. We believe this practice exposes a soft-spot in our General Education program that puts the integrity of the program at risk. We also believe this practice violates the clear intent of the BOR policy, which is to require that all students take a Fine Arts course.

Recommendation: Rename “Fine Arts/Communications” “Fine Arts.” Further, the GE committee will recommend that the Communications Department review those Communications courses currently granted GE Fine Arts/Communications status and make recommendations for their continued inclusion in the GE program (whatever their BREADTH/DEPTH area; e.g. social sciences, humanities).
Issue 3: Social and Behavioral Sciences

In our GE program the Social and Behavioral Sciences area is referred to as “Social Sciences.”

**Recommendation:** Rename this area “Social and Behavioral Sciences” to be consistent with other institutions of higher education in the state and with BOR naming conventions.

**Attachments**

- Attachment A: Board of Regents General Education Policy
3.1. General Education Credit and Core Requirements: To assure full value and reciprocity among all USHE institutions, the number of credits required in General Education for each institution shall range from at least 30 to 39 semester credits, including credits required in the core areas of composition, quantitative literacy, and American institutions. Institutions are encouraged to allow students who demonstrate competencies by other means to satisfy General Education requirements, such as through Advanced Placement tests.

Students must satisfy all of the following General Education core requirements, which will be included at all institutions:

3.1.1. Composition: Students shall be required to complete English 1010, Introduction to Writing (3 credits), and English 2010, Intermediate Writing (3 credits).

3.1.2. Quantitative Literacy: Students may satisfy this requirement by completing Mathematics 1030, Quantitative Literacy (3 credits), or Mathematics 1040, Statistics (3 credits), which have prerequisites of high school intermediate algebra or 2 years of high school algebra. Students may also satisfy the requirement by completing at least one institutionally approved mathematics course at the level of college algebra or which requires college algebra as a prerequisite.

3.1.3. American Institutions: Students may satisfy this requirement by completing one of the following courses: Economics 1740, United States Economic History, (3 credits); Political Science 1100, American Political Institutions (3 credits); or History 1700, American Civilization (3 credits). An interdisciplinary integrated course that satisfies comparable competencies may also satisfy the requirement. Some institutions may require a two course sequence in the areas of economics, political science, or history which satisfy comparable competencies.

3.2. General Education Breadth Requirements beyond the Core: In addition to completing all core requirements described in 3.1, students will be required to complete 18 to 27 credits beyond the General Education core. These courses shall be in the areas of fine arts, humanities, social and behavioral sciences, life sciences, physical sciences, and other areas deemed appropriate at individual USHE institutions. Outside the core requirements, USHE institutions are encouraged to establish unique course requirements, which reflect emphases of the institutions, strengths of faculties, and the varying interests of students. Institutional General Education requirements may be accessed through the www.utahsbr.edu Website.