

MINUTES
General Education Committee
February 12, 2026
1:15-2:45pm
Montecito Room

Members present: Michelle Hardley (Secretary, Registrar), Heather Keaney (Professor of History), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Director, Library & Information Services), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Russell Smelley (Professor of Kinesiology), Telford Work (Chair, Professor of Religious Studies)

Absent:

I. Prayer – Telford Work

II. Approval of the minutes from January 29, 2026
The minutes were approved.

III. Oral Communication Messaging to Faculty

Telford reached out to Elizabeth to request time in the next faculty meeting to review the process for proposing a course to meet the new Oral Communication GE requirement. She has set aside 3-4 minutes in the February faculty meeting. Telford is working on how best to use the time but he did want to highlight the criteria and reinforce to faculty that many courses may have oral communication components that could be approved for this GE requirement based on the new criteria.

IV. COM-015 – Public Speaking – Add to Common Skills and Emphases: Oral Communication

The GE Committee discussed the proposal. Minor suggestions to the syllabus were made.

The course was approved for Oral Communication credit. This approval will be effective in Fall 2026.

V. Exploring the Physical/Life Sciences Assessment

Heather asked Laura to make some initial changes to the assessment tool used originally by Steve Rogers and asked her to turn it into a Google form that could be shared with the teaching faculty this spring. Some of the changes include adding the standard demographic questions to the beginning of the survey.

In discussion, the committee also determined we would like to also add a checkbox with the spring 2026 courses listed, which will allow a student to indicate their current Life Science and Physical Science classes from the list. We are asking the students to only complete the survey one time if they are enrolled in multiple Life Science and Physical Science classes this term. Laura will then disaggregate the data by class, which will ensure that we have only one response per student, but that each student's responses are present within the class data that is sent to the faculty member.

The committee also reviewed the email Heather sent to the teaching faculty and department chairs, which included a timeline for the assessment through the end of the term.

VI. Other Business

None at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley