

**MINUTES**  
**General Education Committee**  
**April 16, 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 March 26, 2026**  
The minutes were approved.

**III. TA-140 – Race and Gender on the American Stage - Add to Common Skills and Emphases: Justice, Reconciliation and Diversity**  
The GE Committee discussed the proposal.

The course was approved. This approval will be effective in Fall 2026.

**IV. RS-101 – Pentateuch - Add to Common Skills and Emphases: Oral Communication**  
The GE Committee discussed the proposal.

There is some confusion in the syllabus and the form she used. We will ask her to revise and resubmit this proposal. In her revision she should use the correct form for Oral Communication and explain how the course meets the requirements by annotating the syllabus. A few language areas also need to be addressed. There is a notation in the syllabus that one of the oral communication assignments was optional, and this should be changed to a required assignment. We also need to see where in the course outline she is giving direct instruction on oral communication to the students. The term “Course Learning Objectives” also needs to be adjusted to “Course Learning Outcomes”.

Telford will have a discussion with her and encourage her to revise and resubmit the proposal if she is still interested in Oral Communication GE for this course.

**V. RS-108 – Prophetic Literature - Add to Common Skills and Emphases: Oral Communication**

The GE Committee discussed the proposal. The same issues in RS-101 were also present in RS-108.

Telford will have a discussion with her and encourage her to revise and resubmit the proposal if she is still interested in Oral Communication GE for this course.

**VI. HIS-015 – Introduction to Archaeology - Add to Common Inquiries: Thinking Historically**

The GE Committee discussed the proposal. The syllabus is not annotated, which makes it difficult for the committee to see where the certification criteria are covered or explored within the syllabus.

The course was provisionally approved pending receiving an annotated syllabus. Heather will connect with Sara and review the annotated syllabus when resubmitted. If Heather approves, this approval will be effective in Fall 2026.

**VII. Exploring the Physical/Life Sciences Assessment**

Heather had written to faculty asking them to indicate on the Google Document when they planned on giving the assessment in their courses. All faculty indicated dates in March, so the data should be collected and ready for review on the Google sheet. At this time there are 268 responses.

Heather asked the faculty to assess their course responses and provide their thoughts and feedback by Tuesday April 14. It looks like the faculty don't yet have access to the data. Tatiana will reach out to Laura to see if she can download and disaggregate the data to send to each instructor. In this data we also need to also indicate which responses are correct for each question.

**VIII. Other Business**

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley