ad hoc General Education Senate Report: April 2015

A. The ad hoc General Education Committee met with Harold Fujii, Joel Tanabe and Robert Yamane on April 1, 2015 to discuss the Academic Senate motion made on March 20, 2015, and the ad hoc General Education Committee co-Chairs met with Joel Tanabe and Robert Yamane on April 10, 2015 to follow-up. Additionally, the ad hoc General Education Committee met on April 8 and April 15, 2015 and reviewed the ACCJC evaluation feedback regarding the college’s AAS programs: Related to the college’s AAS programs, the committee discussed the accreditation commission’s feedback to the college in the ACCJC 2012 External Evaluation Report (ACCJC External Evaluation Report (10/14-18/12)).

Based on our meetings and discussions, the ad hoc General Education Committee makes the following recommendations to address the charge in the Academic Senate motion made on March 20, 2015, which states, “The motion is to allow CTE programs to include GE designated courses applicable to the AAS degree only. The GEC will be charged with establishing the AAS degree GE process in consultation with the AAS degree program representatives and come up with a recommendation at the April Senate meeting. (The existing GEC process as applied to the AA, AS, and AAS degree will not change.)”

1. The ad hoc General Education Committee recommends a motion for the Academic Senate to revise the committee membership listed in the Operating Procedures so that membership formally includes a CTE representative rather than the “at-large” member that has been filled by CTE faculty. This has been discussed with CTE faculty, who have expressed agreement.

2. To ensure transparency and broad-based dialogue regarding the college’s GE processes and support the ad hoc GE Committee’s charge to serve as a college-wide committee supporting all degree programs, information should be fully shared across constituencies, including among CTE representatives, committee members, and college administrators, including Joyce Hamasaki, the dean of CTE, and Joni Onishi, the vice chancellor of academic affairs.

3. The CTE faculty and ad hoc General Education Committee will research the process by which other campuses, within the state and/or nation, meet the General Education needs of their CTE students. The CTE faculty in collaboration with the ad hoc General Education Committee will develop a process with which the General Education needs of the CTE students can be met. Regarding the possibility of forming a subcommittee within the ad hoc General Education Committee, CTE faculty have agreed to submit an initial draft plan to the ad hoc General Education Committee that addresses the following:
   a) how a sub-committee might be formed
   b) its membership
   c) operating procedures
   d) how discussion and communication would occur across various disciplines and departments within the entire campus
   e) current community-college models that could serve as a reference and include the accrediting body

B. The ad hoc General Education Committee sent a memo to Joni Onishi, Chris Manaseri and Joyce Hamasaki requesting that the current general education courses included in the 2014-2015 catalog be extended for another year because several courses that students need to fulfill their
general education requirements have not yet been reviewed for general education designation, limiting the choices available to students. Our request was granted on April 14, 2015.

C. The ad hoc General Education Committee reviewed ANTH 150, Human Adaptations, and recommends it for general education designation.