**Committee Name: General Education Council (GEC)**

**Subject: End of Year Report to the Academic Senate**

**Date: March 30, 2021**

**Chair: Jim Cantrill, Director of General Education**

***Council Members for 2020-2021:***

Bruce Sarjeant, Academic Information Services Representative

Stephan Larson (A&D), College of Arts & Sciences Representative

Tim Compton (MLL&IS), College of Arts & Sciences Representative

Linda Lawton (M&CIS), At Large Representative

Robert Belton (BIO), At Large Representative (resigned)

Lanae Joubert (HHP), HSPS Representative

Katie Menard (CofN), HSPS Representative

Brian Zinser (Business), College of Business Representative

Olivia Furhman, ASNMU Representative

Mary Kuligowski, ASNMU Representative (resigned)

Angie Maki, Registrar

Dan Cullen, Associate Director for Accreditation & Assessment

***Meetings:***

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the GEC had 8 meetings as of this report.

***General Council Activities and Accomplishments:***

* On behalf of the Council, and due to the ongoing pandemic, the GEC Chair and Director of General Education recommended to the Provost that NMU offer departments due to submit assessment reports in the fall the option of deferring until October, 2021. That proposal was granted and was warmly received by department heads.
* Reviewed and approved 6 assessment reports and 1 request to delete a course from the General Education program.
* Reviewed and approved 8 remediation plans left over from the 2019-2029 assessment year required of departments that submitted deficient reports last year.
* Received 11 proposals for courses to be included in the General Education program and/or receive World Cultures designations. Ten of these were approved (1for a one-time-only basis as a Special Topics course) and 1 was returned along with feedback requesting revisions. Each proposal was read and discussed by all GEC members prior to final consideration. Communications concerning numerous questions about course inclusion and assessment occurred.
* The GEC Chair and Director of General Education met with a number of academic departments, as well as the Deans, Directors, and Department Heads to answer questions concerning ongoing General Education course assessments. Written summary of results for reviews noted above were distributed to departments, the Registrar, and ACAC.

***Observations Regarding the Current “Paused” Year for Outcomes Assessment:***

The scale and pace of GEC work in FY2021 was greatly lessened due to the measures the Council took in light of COVID 19. The proposals, plans, and reports that the GEC reviewed and approved were, generally, of high quality in comparison with the past. Nonetheless, the GEC is reluctant to conclude that all is well since the vast majority of departments did not report in the fall. And, indeed, the Council will face a very heavy lift in that the GEC will have as many as 75 assessment reports to review and provide feedback regarding the Perspectives on Society and Quantitative Analysis and Reasoning components of the program (plus a handful of remedial reports) in the fall. The task will be compounded in the fall of 2022 when more than 110 reports are scheduled for review in the Human Expression, Integrative Thinking, and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World course components.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Jim Cantrill**

**GEC Chair 2020-2021**