

Ad Hoc Steering Committee on General Education 2006-2008

Reason: The Ad Hoc Steering Committee on General Education will continue the work of the 2005-2006 Ad Hoc Steering Group on General Education. It will lead the process of General Education review as the faculty enters the design phase of the curricular conversation on General Education. The 2005-2006 Steering Group was constituted in response to the April 2005 vote of the Faculty Assembly. That group's charge included research into curricular change at PLU and other colleges and universities, and fostering conversations on possible changes in requirements, as part of a multi-year process. This work has been done and presented to the Faculty Assembly throughout the year. This Steering Group was also charged to make recommendations on the next stage of the process. The creation of the Ad Hoc Steering Committee on General Education is part of this recommendation. Following the *Faculty Handbook* (Bylaws to the Faculty Constitution 4a.b) and in the consultation with the Faculty Governance Committee, the Ad Hoc Steering Committee is constituted by a vote of the Faculty Assembly. The Faculty Executive Committee brings this motion to the assembly.

Membership and Purpose: The proposed membership of the Ad Hoc Steering Committee on General Education, as with the 2005-2006 Steering Group, intentionally reflects a broad representation of various constituencies of the faculty, along with the current ASPLU President. Concern for faculty demographics (rank and time at PLU) and a balance of continuity and new perspectives are also reflected in the proposed membership. The goal is to draw upon our colleagues with strong institutional wisdom, as well as newer voices in the university. Faculty members have not been invited to serve as advocates for particular units; rather, they have been invited for their ability to work on behalf of the whole university, and for their experience with and commitment to serving the whole. The *Faculty Handbook* requires that President Anderson serve on an ad hoc committee. Colleagues without faculty rank (though they may have faculty status) may not have regular membership on ad hoc committees. It bears repeating that everyone serves on behalf of the whole faculty. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Faculty serve by virtue of their representation of the whole faculty.

The committee will coordinate and facilitate the process of design and discussion. In its first year (2006-2007) this group, working with the Educational Policies Committee, will guide and facilitate campus discussions of curricular models in light of the Guidelines for Pacific Lutheran University's General Education Program in ways that de-politicize curricular conversations and foster communication and community-building across disciplinary boundaries. In its second year (2007-2008) it will, working with the Educational Policies Committee, bring a proposal or proposals forward for a vote by the Faculty Assembly.

Charge: The Ad Hoc Steering Committee on General Education will serve over the next two academic years, 2006 – 2007 and 2007 – 2008. It will, along with the Educational Policies Committee, lead the design phase of the curricular conversation on general education by shaping and guiding conversation around specific conceptions of general education in relation to the Guidelines for Pacific Lutheran University's General Education Program. By the second year, the Steering Committee, along with the Educational Policies Committee, will (barring any unforeseen circumstances) bring a proposal or proposals on general education requirements at PLU to the Faculty Assembly for a vote.

Faculty Officers

Erin McKenna, Chair of the Faculty
Dave Robbins, Vice Chair of the Faculty

Advisory

Loren Anderson, President
Patricia Roundy, Dean for Student Academic Success
Karl Stumo, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid

Faculty

Jon Grahe, Psychology
Rona Kaufman, English
Patricia Killen, Religion
Richard Louie, Physics
Patsy Maloney, Nursing
Karen McConnell, Physical Education

Student

Anne Spilman, ASPLU President 06/07