

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fort Wayne Senate

FROM: Stephen Buttes, Chair
Educational Policy Committee

DATE: 12/09/2025

SUBJ: Programs Subcommittee Report on General Education New Course Proposals

As the Parent Committee for the Programs subcommittee, the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) received the “For Information” item below. Programs subcommittee announces two things in its document, which EPC has further discussed:

1. It is pausing approval of any new courses to participate in the General Education Program until Fall 2026.
2. This pause aims to provide the subcommittee time to engage in an efficiency review of the General Education program as a whole, a task undertaken at the request of the PFW Provost.

On November 4, 2025, EPC met with Kent Johnson, PFW Executive Director for Assessment and Accreditation and member of the Programs subcommittee, to learn more about the efficiency review.

A summary of the kinds of questions EPC members asked during the meeting as well as the information that was shared about this efficiency review are included in the approved minutes for the November 4, 2025 EPC meeting.

EPC wishes to highlight two key take aways from the conversation:

- The primary goal of this efficiency review is to facilitate *programmatic* assessment (the Gen Ed program as a whole rather than individual courses) while also making the program meaningfully coherent for students.
- A related goal is to ensure that students can reliably pursue that meaningfully coherent program (e.g., by having the courses associated with a topical track offered every year and ideally every semester).

On Nov. 24, 2025, the chair of Programs subcommittee, Steven Cody, described the goal of the efficiency review in the following way (via email):

- “the goal of the review is to ‘map’ the GE program. From the Program Subcommittee’s point of view, the review will give us a good understanding of which GE categories are well-populated, and which (if any) might be over or under populated. I foresee this information informing the way Programs issues calls for and evaluates new GE course proposals in the future.”

EPC’s goal is to ensure that the Senate is aware that an efficiency review of the General Education program is underway and that this work and its proposed outcomes are the reasons for the pause in receiving new course proposals for the General Education programs. The goal of the review is to gather information to inform revisions to how the General Education Program functions and operates.

As always, senators are invited to review the minutes of the Programs subcommittee and/or Educational Policy Committee to stay up to date on the efficiency review process.

Approve: Abby Blackmon, Tara Lewis, Terri Swim, Stephen Buttes, Jaiyanth Daniel, Andres Montenegro, Sherrie Steiner, Mieko Yamada, Amal Khalifa

Oppose:

Absent: Joel Givens

MEMORANDUM

TO Fort Wayne Senate

FROM: Steven J. Cody, Chair
Programs Subcommittee

DATE: 10/22/2025

SUBJ: Committee Reports for Information: 2025-2026 General Education New Course Proposals

WHEREAS the Programs Subcommittee “is concerned with the programs for general education and civics literacy as well the military training and continuing education programs” (Bylaws-C, III.2.3.3);

WHEREAS “responsibility for administering the General Education Program shall reside with the Chief Academic Officer, assisted by the Subcommittee, which shall report to the Faculty and submit any documents through the Educational Policy Committee” (Bylaws-C, III.5.2.2);

WHEREAS the Programs Subcommittee “conduct[s] an ongoing review of the goals and operations of the [General Education] program, with annual reports and recommendations to the Educational Policy Committee and the Chief Academic Officer each fall” (Bylaws-C, III.5.2.3.3);

WHEREAS the university has now implemented the General Education program outlined in SD23-5, which the Faculty Senate approved on January 8, 2024 and amended on March 11, 2024;

WHEREAS the Chief Academic Officer recently requested that the Programs Subcommittee review and assess the current General Education program with the goal of developing recommendations for making the program as efficient as possible;

LET IT BE KNOWN that the Programs Subcommittee has decided to pause the review of new General Education course proposals until the fall of 2026.

In Favor	Opposed	Abstention	Non-Voting
Kristin Barker			
Caleb Britton			
Jeff Casazza			
Steven J. Cody			
Damian Fleming			
Kent Johnson			
Tara Lewis			