General Education Requirements Revision at Idaho State University:
Timeline and Approval Channels

Phase I and Phase II of the General Education revision effort represent the culmination of a decade of work by many faculty members to consider and recommend revisions to the General Education core requirements:

- **2003-2005—**
  - Idaho State University’s administration tasked a sub-committee under the direction of Dr. Paul Cady to review the General Education Requirements, which had not undergone any substantial review since 1980. The committee submitted a report (2004-2005) that made the following recommendations: information literacy is an essential ability and should be emphasized in General Education courses; courses should be allowed to fulfill more than one Goal as part of an integrated process; the Goals should include upper-division, interdisciplinary courses; and the committee recommended learning outcomes for each Goal. The work of this committee formed the basis for all of the post-2002 work to follow. The 2011 revisions include the major points of the 2004-2005 recommendations.

- **2008-2009—**
  - In response to an accreditation report, and a charge from the Faculty Senate, the Undergraduate Curriculum Council, an independently elected sub-council of the Faculty Senate, was tasked with revising the language describing the General Education requirements in the Undergraduate Catalog.
    - Under the direction of Dr. Jennifer Attebery, Chair of Curriculum Council, the council revised the statement in the Undergraduate Catalog (page 23 of the 2010-2011 version) addressing the General Education Program.

- **2009-2010—**
  - In response to a charge from Faculty Senate, an ad hoc committee comprised of members from the Undergraduate Curriculum Council (sub-council of Faculty Senate), Academic Standards Council (sub-council of Faculty Senate), and General Education Requirements Committee (sub-committee of Curriculum Council) was convened and co-chaired by Dr. Kandi Turley-Ames (Interim Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs) and Dr. Ken Trimmer (Chair of Undergraduate Curriculum Council).
    - This committee drafted revised Objectives and Outcomes for undergraduate General Education Requirements.
    - The Objectives and Outcomes were submitted to the Faculty Senate in a committee report during the Spring 2010 semester. On Monday, March 15, 2010, the Faculty Senate passed the following motion pertaining to the
Objectives and Outcomes with one abstention: “Motion to accept the report, and to authorize the Curriculum Council and the Ad Hoc Committee to conduct a survey, modifying the document taking into account Senate’s discussion.”

- The faculty-at-large were surveyed regarding the Objectives and Outcomes. The survey was developed by the ad hoc Review Committee and posted to an ISU site to allow Faculty to provide input. Means and standard deviations were reviewed, and the matching of Outcomes to Objectives, as well as their importance, were quantitatively confirmed. Survey results were available by the end of the Spring 2010 semester but there was not ample time for the Ad Hoc Committee to review the results.

- 2010-2011—
- To complete the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, the General Education Review Committee was appointed during Fall 2010 semester by the Office of Academic Affairs, in cooperation with co-Chairs Dr. Laura Woodworth-Ney, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dr. Ken Trimmer, Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Council. The Committee was charged with reviewing the Requirements surveyed during Spring of 2010 and to move the recommendation for revision of General Education Requirements to completion.
  - The Committee reviewed the survey results, edited the Objectives and Outcomes based on the survey responses, gathered feedback from faculty focus groups, mapped all of the current ISU General Education courses into the new Objectives structure, created a website available to all faculty for review, posted all documents to the website in November 2010 and invited comment through mid-January 2011, and held an open forum to explain the new requirements to staff, faculty and students. Revisions to the Objectives, based upon the comments posted and made at the forum, as well as recommendations from the Undergraduate Curriculum Council, were made to the version presented at the forum.
  - The Committee recommended approval of Phase I (Objectives) and a move to Phase II (Identification and approval of additional General Education courses and the creation of assessment tools for every General Education course).
  - The College of Business and the University Library faculty endorsed the General Education Objectives Proposal by vote. The College of Pharmacy reported that they had no concerns with the proposal.
  - The University Retention Committee reviewed the proposal and expressed support for General Education proposal.
  - The ASISU Student Senate voted on and approved the General Education proposal on January 19, 2011, with a vote of 14-4.
  - The proposal was submitted to the Faculty Senate for input on February 14, 2011.
  - The Council of Deans approved the completed revised General Education proposal, with one revision, on March 1, 2011.
A motion was made and seconded at the Undergraduate Curriculum Council on March 3, 2011 “to schedule workshops to begin Phase II of original charge concerning the General Education Requirements program, beginning with Central Academic Advising (CAA), and with the understanding that CAA staff will then help disseminate the information system-wide.” The Council voted unanimously for this motion. Phase II includes a review of catalog copy regarding General Education and the review of proposals for new courses to be added to the General Education program.

- The proposal was approved by the Provost on March 4, 2011.
- The proposal was approved by the President on March 7, 2011.
- The proposal was submitted to the State Board of Education Office on April 4, 2011.