

Faculty Senate Talking Points, February 25, 2025, Meeting #24

- Faculty Senate approved changes to **FSH 3780 – Dependent Educational Tuition and Fee Reduction**, subject to some clarification of the tax consequences for multi-employee households. These changes include the addition of a second eligible dependent at a rate of 25% off tuition. (The first child will continue to receive the 50% reduction).
- The Provost mentioned that Information on **CEC** (Change in Employee Compensation) is not yet available from the Legislature but will be communicated as it becomes available.
- Erin Chapman, Chair of Faculty Affairs Committee, presented on current and upcoming issues the committee is working on. See attached slides for a summary of current and upcoming initiatives at **Faculty Affairs**.
- Barb Kirchmeier, Director of General Education, presented an update and led a discussion on **General Education** at U of I. See attached slides. Contact Barb at barbara@uidaho.com if you have any questions on this.

Dates and Events:

- **COGS** will offer the course “*Prestigious Fellowships I*,” INTR 512 Section 1, CNR: 79023. Tuesdays 5-6pm PST, starting the week of March 17. Contact/Instructor: Michael Decker (Director, GS support) mdecker@uidaho.edu
- **CALS** is searching for a new dean. Details for the open sessions are on the website. <https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/administrative-searches/cals-dean>

The Talking Points are approved by Faculty Senate Leadership as an informal communication tool to engage constituents and get quick feedback on issues discussed at the Faculty Senate weekly meetings. All Faculty Senate agendas (including attachments and supporting documents) and meeting minutes are made available on the Senate webpage:

<https://www.uidaho.edu/governance/faculty-senate/meetings>

Please send your questions, concerns, and feedback to the Faculty Senate Chair (khaltinner@uidaho.edu).

Remember to share these talking points with faculty and staff in your colleges



University
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FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO SENATE | FEB. 25, 2025



CURRENT MEMBERS OF FAC

(THANK YOU!)

VOTING MEMBERS

I Leontina Hormel (CLASS)

I Laura Holyoke (CoEHHS)

I Michael McGriff (CLASS)

I Sara Mahdavi (CALs)

I Jennifer Johnson-Leung (CoS)

I Jessica Gunder (LAW)

I Chelsea Pennick (CNR)

I Bob Borrelli (CoE)

EX-OFFICIO & SUPPORT

I Francesca Sammarruca

I Diane Kelly-Riley

I Diane Whitney

I Kristin Haltinner

I Tim Murphy



FAC IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING...

(OR WILL BE SOON)

- I** Recommendation to create a Faculty Compensation/Salary Committee (per charge by Senate)
- I** FSH 3130: Disruption of University Operations (will go to FSPG next)
- I** Draft Faculty Code of Conduct (working with Office of the Provost on this)
- I** Draft Post-Tenure Review (working with Office of the Provost on this)



ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR FAC AGENDA...

- I FSH 1565: Academic Ranks & Responsibilities (working with Office of Provost on this)
- I Brief report on by-law review process (from Office of Provost and Policy Coordinator)
- I FSH 4700: General Responsibilities of Instructor (via UTC)
- I CV Template (via working group; waiting on second round of suggested revisions)
- I Benefits/Health Insurance discussion



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GENERAL EDUCATION

Barb Kirchmeier, Director of General Education
barbara@uidaho.edu

February 25, 2025

GEN ED @ U OF I



The U of I General Education Curriculum is a multi-year educational experience designed to complement the coursework in each student's major. The U of I General Education Curriculum also helps students obtain the skills and competencies employers are looking for.

Students at University of Idaho must take courses in the following nine categories to complete the U of I General Education Curriculum:

- **Written Communication** (6 credits, depending on placement; UI lists 3 classes)
- **Oral Communication** (3 credits; UI lists 4 classes, but only 2 are offered regularly)
- **Scientific Ways of Knowing** (8 credits from two different disciplines which include two accompanying labs, OR 7 credits which includes a Core Science course (CORS) and one course with an accompanying lab; UI lists 28 classes)
- **Mathematical Ways of Knowing** (3 credits; UI lists 10 classes)
- **Humanistic and Artistic Ways of Knowing** (6 credits from two different disciplines; UI lists 69 classes)
- **Social and Behavioral Ways of Knowing** (6 credits from two different disciplines; UI lists 75 classes)
- **American Diversity (American Experience)** (1 course; UI lists 45 classes)
- **International** (1 course or an approved study abroad experience; UI lists 136 classes)
- **Capstone Experience** (1 course; UI lists 100 classes)



The courses that fall into each of the above categories can be found in the [Catalog](#) in [section J-3](#).

GEN ED @ U OF I



U of I General Education Courses must work towards specific competencies or learning objectives.

- **Competencies defined by Idaho State Board of Education Policy III.N:**
 - **Written Communication**
 - **Oral Communication**
 - **Scientific Ways of Knowing**
 - **Mathematical Ways of Knowing**
 - **Humanistic and Artistic Ways of Knowing**
 - **Social and Behavioral Ways of Knowing**
- **Learning Objectives defined by University Committee on General Education (UCGE)**
 - **American Diversity (Experience)**
 - **International**
 - **Capstone Experience**

GEN ED @ U OF I – WAYS OF KNOWING REPRESENTATIVES



U of I sends ways of knowing representatives to annual Idaho General Education Summit each year.

- **GEM Area Representatives at 2024 General Education Summit:**
 - **Written Communication: Tyler Easterbrook**
 - **Oral Communication: Diane Carter**
 - **Scientific Ways of Knowing: Robert Heinse**
 - **Mathematical Ways of Knowing: Tim Boester**
 - **Humanistic and Artistic Ways of Knowing: Margot Volem**
 - **Social and Behavioral Ways of Knowing: Annette Folwell**



GENERAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

GEN ED ASSESSMENT @ U OF I



The General Education assessment strategy is designed to focus on evaluating the student learning competencies relative to the SBOE General Education learning Outcomes and the U of I Learning Outcomes. It is designed to be embedded, integrated, sustainable and meaningful.

The General Education assessment strategy entails a combination of three primary assessment tools :

- **Disaggregated assessment of artifacts/signature works by individual faculty.**
 - Faculty teaching in general education will select a signature assignment or artifact defined as containing two or more General Education competencies or learning outcomes.
 - Faculty enter the disaggregated data into Anthology and reflect on the findings.
 - Data will be reviewed by DGE, UCGE, and specific discipline or at the college level.
- **Rotating syllabi review by General Education category by UCGE.**
 - Completed: American Diversity (Experience), International, Social Sciences, Science, Math.
 - Current: Oral Communication and Humanities.
 - Future work: Written Communication and Senior Experience.
- **Satisfaction data from the Graduating Senior Survey & NSSE conducted by IEA.**



GEN ED ASSESSMENT @ U OF I



Meetings with "ways of knowing" faculty with goals to

1. Bring together faculty and TAs who teach in this ways of knowing area.
2. Share the results from the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 assessment collection.
3. Identify one learning outcome that, as a group, we want to focus on improving and brainstorming ways we might do that.

Results:

- Develop workshops to help faculty design "signature assignments" that will help us capture information about how students are performing on learning outcomes.
- Build rubrics that faculty in each "ways of knowing" could use in their Canvas courses to help capture information about student performance on learning outcomes.
- Help faculty map general education learning outcomes to course and/or program learning outcomes.
- Think about ways faculty may opt to incorporate durable skills into their general education assessments.
- Consider ways to increase participation in data gathering.



GENERAL EDUCATION AWARDS

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AWARDS



INNOVATIVE EDUCATOR AWARDS

The 2024 award recipients stood out for their exceptional work in developing durable skills including critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, teamwork and adaptability within their general education curricula.

Award: \$500 + invitation to be recognized and speak at the 2025 General Education Summit (?)

Eligibility: U of I can nominate six faculty, one in each of the “ways of knowing” categories of general education:

- **Written Communication**
- **Oral Communication**
- **Scientific Ways of Knowing**
- **Mathematical Ways of Knowing**
- **Humanistic and Artistic Ways of Knowing**
- **Social and Behavioral Ways of Knowing**





COMMON READ

COMMON READ PROGRAM

The Common Read is a program designed to engage the UI and Moscow community, its students, staff, faculty and community members, in a unified intellectual activity. For first-year students, it introduces them to academic expectations, respectful discourse, and community building.

The 2024-2025 Common Read is *The Anthropocene Reviewed*, a collection of personal essays by John Green. Chosen by the Common Read Selection Committee, this book was a Goodreads Choice winner for nonfiction in 2021 and a #1 New York Times Bestseller. Green, known for *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Turtles All the Way Down*, also hosts a popular podcast.

2025-2026 Selection Process:

1. Asked for recommendations from community; received 18.
2. Reviewed recommendations and picked six finalists.
3. Reading the finalists now; will select top three on Friday. Will share with UCGE chair, VPAI, CLASS Dean, etc. for feedback.
4. Announced to campus community after spring break.

IDEAS FOR IMPROVING THE COMMON READ PROGRAM



- I Find a new class (or series of classes) to “host” the book (to ensure that students are reading the whole book)
- I Schedule speakers for both the fall and spring semesters (COMM 101 requirement to attend a keynote speaker)
- I Pick a book that can easily be divided into shorter sections
- I Pick a book earlier to give people a chance to plan to use it in their classes, develop programming related to the Common Read, etc.
- I Create a Common Read standing committee staffed by Faculty Senate with representation from all colleges
- I Create a Common Read module that could be inserted into FYE courses already being taught
- I Use the Common Read at new student orientation (and transfer student orientation) events
- I Invite the Common Read author as the graduation speaker? Convocation speaker?
- I Identify a funding source for Common Read programming

HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH GENERAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMON READ PROGRAM

Select “University Committee on General Education” on your UI committee preference form and volunteer to be a GEM area representative at the Idaho General Education Summit held in October every year.

Use the Common Read text in your classes and encourage your students to attend the Common Read Keynote event.

Send in a recommendation for a future Common Read text.

Attend General Education events and volunteer to teach a General Education course offered by your department.

QUESTIONS? FEEDBACK?

- How can I better support General Education Faculty at the U of I?

