

Memorandum

Date: January 17, 2025

To: Rita Kumar
Chair, Academic Senate

From: Soraya M. Coley, Ph.D. President, Cal Poly Pomona
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President, Cal Poly
Pomona
Digitally signed by Soraya M.
Coley, President, Cal Poly
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Date: 2025.01.17 08:56:59 -08'00'

Subject: Response to Senate Report AS-3101-245-GE-General Education Update

Received in Academic
Senate
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I want to take this opportunity to recognize and commend the Academic Senate, particularly the GE Committee, for their diligent efforts in adopting the new CSU General Education (GE) requirements and aligning these requirements with the values outlined in our General Education Meaning and Purpose statement. The commitment to fostering student success through a curriculum that includes a foundation in the social sciences is deeply appreciated.

I share the perspective that the social sciences are essential to developing critical thinking, understanding societal structures, and preparing students for academic and professional success. Offering social science courses in the lower division helps to ensure that students gain foundational knowledge and skills early in their educational journey, equipping them to thrive in an interconnected and diverse world.

After careful review, and in consultation with the Provost, I am approving the Academic Senate's recommendation to adopt the majority GE report with the **following modifications** designed to center and prioritize student success:

- American Ideals: US History (AI History) in Lower Division Social Science (GE Area 4A):** To alleviate potential bottlenecks in upper-division GE and provide students with greater flexibility in meeting the AI History requirement, AI History will remain as an option in GE Area 4A. This adjustment ensures students have choices in fulfilling this requirement. Importantly, this also means that programs will not need to modify their existing curricula, allowing them to continue as currently structured. At the same time, programs and colleges can continue exploring how to retain or expand their First-Year Experience requirements within their curriculum.
- Updated List of Approved GE Area 4A Courses:** The list of courses grandfathered into GE Area 4A will include only those that are still actively offered as GE Area D3 courses. This ensures the courses are current and available. The Office of Academic Programs will provide this list.

The Academic Senate's recommendation, along with these modifications, reflects our commitment to Cal Poly Pomona's inclusive polytechnic identity and our mission to provide a

comprehensive education that supports all students' success. By maintaining the availability of lower-division social science courses and offering flexible pathways for meeting the AI History requirement, we are upholding our dedication to student success.

I appreciate your partnership and shared commitment to student success. Together, through shared governance, we will ensure our GE curriculum remains robust, inclusive, and aligned with the needs of our students.

Thank you for your continued dedication.

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