To: Faculty Senate Members

From: Rodney Frey, Director of General Education

RE: UI Gen Ed Alignment with SBOE Guidelines and U of I Senior Experience

Date: 18 November 2015

A. Given the new Idaho State Board of Education policies on state-wide configuration of general education curriculum (Governing Policies and Procedures Section III., Postsecondary Affairs, Subsection N. Statewide Education, approved April 2014) and on general education transferability (Governing Policies and Procedures Section III., Postsecondary Affairs, Subsection V. Articulation and Transfer, approved April 2014), this proposal will bring the University of Idaho’s General Education curricula into alignment with SBOE guidelines.

1. Relating to the first SBOE policy N., we are being asked to establish a two-discipline requirement for our University of Idaho general education Science (J-3-b), Social Science and Humanities (J-3-d) categories, i.e., requiring two different disciplines for Science, for the Social Science and for the Humanities. Currently there is not a two-discipline requirement for the individual Science, Social Science and Humanities categories per se, other than a four discipline requirement for courses taken to satisfy the Humanities and Social Sciences, American Diversity (J-3-e) and Integrated Studies (J-3-f).

This will apply to both of the University of Idaho’s General Education curricula, i.e., the U of I General Education curriculum and in what is entitled, the “SBOE Core” for transfer students (having earned 14 or more credits after high school).

As the U of I General Education curriculum and the SBOE Core curriculum both are framed under the State Board of Education policies, what we have been calling the “SBOE Core” will be renamed the “Transfer Core” curriculum for transfer students.

This policy change has been reviewed by faculty representatives on UCGE and UCC representing all eight baccalaureate-granting colleges, and approved unanimously by each committee.

2. Relating to SBOE policy N., all state-funded four-year institutions must have a minimum of a 36 credit General Education curriculum. With our current U of I Gen Ed configuration, most all students do graduate with a minimum of 36 credits. But it is theoretically possible to graduate under the U of I Gen Ed with 33 credits, which would be out of compliance with SBOE policy.
3. Relating to the second SBOE policy V., we were asked to review the 145 U of I General Education courses in the Oral and Written Communications, Math, Science, Social Science and Humanities categories, and based upon competency criteria developed by state-wide faculty teams, determine which courses meet the SBOE competency criteria. Attached is the list of University of Idaho general education courses reviewed and which meet the SBOE competency criteria for designation as General Education Matriculation (GEM) courses.

Please keep in mind that being listed or not listed as GEM course does not affect the status of these courses in completion of the University of Idaho’s general education requirements. It only affects those students who seek to transfer to another Idaho state-funded institution and are using one of these U of I courses as a possible GEM transfer course into another institution’s general education. U of I general education courses not GEM certified will of course still transfer, but only as electives. Also keep in mind that revised past and newly proposed U of I general education courses can and will be reviewed for GEM certification.

B. This proposal also includes consideration of the remaining U of I Gen Ed Senior Experience options for all baccalaureate majors. Beginning the Fall of 2015, all students entering in the Catalog year 2012-13 will have a Gen Ed Senior Experience course to complete that Integrated Studies component requirement (J-3-f).