**Fall 2016**

Continuing the “gateway course” project started in the last academic year, an example course, HUM 100, was developed to address the issue of “mission creep” in the Critical Thinking general education category. This course was carefully designed to address several of the issues that have arisen in various college conversations over the past several years. It is intended to be a first semester class, reorienting the critical thinking category to serve its intended purpose: an introduction to the kind of critical thinking required in college courses. It also includes the study skills that were an integral part of the FYE Course, and career exploration elements that are intended to serve the Pathways initiative. The Gen Ed committee agreed to recommend the class and send it forward to Curriculum. The Curriculum Committee approved the class, and it will be scheduled for Fall 2017.

Several discipline “concentration” proposals were presented to the committee, including anthropology, sociology, psychology and geography. These proposals did not recommend any additions, deletions or changes to the Gen Ed list of classes, but were rather recommended course sequences that would ensure that students intending to major in each discipline would take the appropriate courses for their transfer plans. The General Education committee discussed the development of concentrations within the Associate of Arts degree and expressed general approval of the idea. While the committee was unsure what its role was in the development or review of these concentration proposals or when or how they will be pursued, it was agreed to send them back to Patti with the understanding that the General Education committee saw no problems with continuing the development of concentrations within the AA.

The final curriculum issue before the committee this fall was a proposal from the Business Department to amend the AGEC-B, and therefore the Associate of Business degree as well, to remove the Historical Perspective category from the Core Studies section of the AGEC, to be replaced by an Introduction to Business course. The committee did not recommend this change. The reasoning was that, as has been reiterated several times in the last several years, the purpose and goal of the General Education program at Yavapai College is to provide students with a breadth of knowledge and experience that is the hallmark of a college-educated person, and be applicable to any career or major a student might pursue. Substituting an introductory course for a particular major for a general category of knowledge is contrary to the philosophy of general education.

In addition, in the Fall of 2016, the general education committee reviewed behavioral science assessment data from AY 14-15 and 15-16. There was general approval of the format in which the data is being collected and presented. Reviewing the data showed no unexpected areas of concern. It was noted (again) that faculty need clarification on the difference between the “V” (vanished) and “NA” (Not applicable) categories.