



**Chancellor's General Education  
Advisory Committee**

**ANNUAL REPORT (Academic Year 2023-2024)**

**Members:**

Eniko Csomay, GEAC Chair, ASCSU (San Diego) *Eniko Csomay*  
Gregory Wood, GEAC Vice-Chair, ASCSU (Channel Islands)  
Paul Carpenter, Secretary, ASCSU (East Bay)  
Samuel Frame, ASCSU (San Luis Obispo)  
Dana Nakano, ASCSU (Stanislaus)  
Simon Rodan, ASCSU (San Jose)  
Susan Schlievert, AA chair, ASCSU (Fresno)  
Mark Van Selst, ASCSU (San Jose)  
LaTonya Parker, CCC Academic Senate (Rio Hondo)  
Michelle Plug, CCC Articulation Officer (Citrus College)  
John Stankas, CCC CO, Vice Chancellor, Equitable Student Learning, Experience, and Impact  
Office, Ex Officio  
Bernadette Muscat, CSU Campus Academic Affairs (Fresno)  
Sarah Wood, CSU Articulation Officer (Sacramento)  
Brent Frost, CSU CO, Assistant Vice Chancellor, State University Dean, Ex Officio  
Genesis "Gali" Pompa, CSSA

**Standing guests:**

Beth Steffel, ASCSU, Chair  
Kevin Katz, Chair, CSU GE Council  
Dana Nakano, ASCSU, JEDI liaison  
Quajuana Chapman, CSU CO, Assistant Director, General Education and Intersegmental  
Partnerships  
Caron Inouye, CSU CO, Associate Dean, Academic Programs, Curriculum and Assessment  
Marc Sanchez, CSU CO, Assistant Director Undergraduate Transfer Programs  
Raul Arambula, CCCCCO, Dean, Educational Services  
Bob Quinn, CCCCCO, Specialist, Educational Services and Support Division

**Invited guests to specific meetings:**

Laura Massa, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic and Faculty Programs  
Darlene Yee-Melichar, Faculty Trustee, Board of Trustees

## **Overview:**

GEAC includes faculty, administrators, and articulation officers from the CSU and California Community Colleges. It advises the CSU Chancellor on policies connected to the statewide General Education Breadth curriculum, a part of every CSU degree.

GEAC typically meets on the Tuesday directly preceding the Wednesday-Friday committee and plenary sessions for the Academic Senate CSU (nominally September, November, January, March, and May). However, this past academic year, GEAC was asked to meet multiple times outside of the regular cycle (see details below) to provide recommendations on the implementation of AB 928 and related CSU GE policy changes.

The intersegmental nature of the committee has the consequence that sometimes topics stray from those strictly under the purview of GEAC (e.g., American Institutions is not a formal GE requirement) and the committee also touches on other elements of intersegmental coordination (Transfer, Articulation). The intent is that the primary focus of GEAC remain on the effectiveness of General Education as a whole and, therefore, is considered as a program (including both CSU GE and Cal-GETC).

The structure of this report is to first introduce the Chancellor's charge for GEAC for 2023-2024, and its response. The second section lists items that GEAC was asked to contribute to during off-cycle meetings. The third section lists items considered by GEAC outside of the charge and fourth item lists areas that will need to be discussed next year. Finally, the fifth area lists specific resolutions adopted by the ASCSU that are of relevance to GEAC.

### **1. Chancellor's Charge for 2023-2024:**

- a) Recommendations related to Cal-GETC
  - i) Implementation
  - ii) Resources
- b) GE waivers
- c) Guiding notes

#### **a) Recommendations related to Cal-GETC**

GEAC considered each item and unanimously approved recommendations as follows.

GEAC continued to spend considerable time discussing the status of CSU GE Breadth in relation to Cal-GETC. GEAC acknowledged the fact that Assembly Bill 928, "The Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act of 2021", mandated the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) to establish a singular lower division general education pathway (Cal-GETC) that meets the academic requirements necessary for transfer admission to the California State University and the University of California. GEAC, in agreement with the Academic Senate of the California State University's (ASCSU), further recognized the fact that the Cal-GETC requirements are for transfer students only and that those requirements were different from CSU GE Breadth. In the light of this recognition, GEAC's recommendations were as follows.

i) *Recommendations on Cal-GETC implementation*

Charge:

“The Board of Trustees will consider agenda items related to Cal-GETC during the 2023-24 academic year. To provide sufficient time for successful system and individual university implementation of Cal-GETC, actions to update Title 5 by the Board of Trustees are necessary by early 2024. For example, CSU transfer admissions and university-level admission impact criteria must be revised. What considerations should the board contemplate as part of these revisions? Please provide this response by December 15, 2023.”

Recommendation:

GEAC’s recommendation submitted to the Chancellor’s Office dated December 4, 2023 includes the following points (see more detailed discussion in the [response letter](#)):

1. Title 5 changes should be made to allow students completing the Cal-GETC general education pathway to enroll in the CSU without a need for further lower division general education courses. It is of great benefit to implement this narrow change to Title 5 as soon as possible to allow time to work out details in order to meet the requirements of AB928.
2. In general, curricular matters are the purview of faculty through the process of shared governance. Any change to the CSU General Education (CSU GE) should be postponed until robust consultation with CSU faculty has been undertaken and a recommendation via resolution is made by the ASCSU.
3. One potential barrier to transfer students is that Cal-GETC course work must be UC transferable. Current CSU GE requirements are more permissive. Regardless of whether a student has or has not completed Cal-GETC, we still want them to be welcomed and be eligible for CSU admission, provided all other transfer admission requirements have been met.
4. The proposed changes to Title 5 are of great interest to the Academic Senate of the CSU (ASCSU) and ensuring access to the proposed text to the ASCSU at the earliest possible date would reduce unnecessary friction within the revision and implementation processes.

*Considerations for the Board of Trustees:*

1. Cal-GETC and CSU GE should be treated and discussed separately. Please see a [resolution](#) from the ASCSU for context for this recommendation.
2. Title 5 changes pertinent to Cal-GETC must be made by March, 2024, in order for the implementation of AB928, singular transfer pattern, by Fall 2025.
3. Possible changes to CSU GE are not on a timeline, and therefore, are not on the same timeline as changes to be made for AB928. Please see an ASCSU [resolution](#) for the context for this recommendation.
4. A Title 5 change to CSU GE reflects a curricular change. In line with tenets of shared governance, such a curricular change should not be made until robust consultation with faculty has concluded in a formal ASCSU recommendation via resolution. Please see an ASCSU [resolution](#) for the context of this recommendation.

5. There are a number of issues that the ASCSU and the Chancellor’s Office are not in alignment on – there appears to be a lack of a shared vision of how to best serve transfer and first-time first-year students. We recommend that the Academic Affairs Committee work together with the Chancellor’s Office and GEAC to continue conversations and make a recommendation about:
  - a. The role of lifelong learning in CSU GE vs. its exclusion from Cal-GETC.
  - b. The role of the additional 3 units of arts and humanities in CSU GE vs. its exclusion from Cal-GETC. [This recommendation is now moot given the Board of Trustees decision to reduce units in CSU GE and to assign particular unit distributions for those cuts.]
  - c. The separation of the 1-unit lab from the three units of life or physical science in Cal-GETC vs. its allowed inclusion in a 3-unit course in CSU GE. [This recommendation is now moot given the Board of Trustees decision to reduce units in CSU GE and to assign particular unit distributions for those cuts.]
  - d. How the CSU might best respond to the phenomenon of reverse transfer from the CSU to the CCC and/or intersegmental ‘swirl’ of course taking across institutions.
  - e. The advisability of bifurcating grading standards (Cal-GETC for CSU; Cal-GETC for UC). [The existence of the “two paths” with different standards will be a continuing issue despite recent Board action.]

ii) *Resource needs to implement changes related to Cal-GETC*

Charge:

“Following board action to update relevant sections of Title 5 related to Educational Program and Admission Requirements, faculty will be engaged in implementation of a variety of changes related to Cal-GETC. For example, all Transfer Model Curricula (TMC) will need to be updated, and faculty advisors will need updated materials and training. What resources would GEAC recommend that the Chancellor’s Office provide to universities to support implementation of these changes? Please provide this response by April 15, 2024.”

Recommendation:

GEAC’s recommendation submitted to the Chancellor’s Office on March 29, 2024 includes the points outlined below (see more detailed discussion of these points in the [response letter](#)).

Five streams of actions were identified:

1. Programming support. There are resources required for Peoplesoft updates to degree audit systems.
2. ASSIST updates. There are resources required for ASSIST (articulation) updates - both at the implementation level and for assessment of courses against the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) descriptors.
3. TMC assessment. There is a need for the Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) used for Associate Degree for Transfers (ADTs) to be assessed, not just for basic compliance to swap out California State University General Education (CSU GE) or Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) as the relevant General Education (GE) package in favor of the Cal-GETC content but for the discipline faculty to identify if

there is a loss of outcomes or other content changes that necessitate other modifications to the TMC itself.

4. Evaluation of each degree program. Processes are needed to evaluate each degree program vis-a-vis updated GE and/or Cal-GETC changes. In some cases, new opportunities may emerge that lead to individual program changes. Many campuses may react to the Board of Trustees (BoT) actions on GE by implementing various requirements for first-time first-year student experience to offset the loss of CSU GE Area E lifelong learning outcomes and/or to further facilitate student success.
5. Steering committee. GEAC recommends calling for an executive steering committee for GE change.

#### **b) General Education waivers**

##### Charge:

“Please provide recommendations for both a policy and process for a campus to request waivers of GE course requirements for specific undergraduate programs.”

##### Recommendation:

The base recommendations of GEAC are to:

1. Emphasize that all CSU students are expected to meet all lower-division GE (LDGE) unit requirements and learning outcomes.
2. Perform a comprehensive audit of all types of existing GE exceptions, including a survey of campus catalogs and records of prior Chancellor’s Office authorizations.
3. Prohibit LDGE transfer admission waivers and subject area exemptions for any program with an ADT and highly discourage these types of GE exceptions for non-ADT programs.
4. Allow LDGE substitutions.
5. Discontinue all existing GE exceptions from summer 2025 but allow for a “teach-out” period for programs to align to the new policy. Students retain their GE catalog rights to approved GE exceptions recorded in the catalog.
6. Establish the process by which programs notify the Chancellor’s Office and GEAC of the intention to implement any LDGE substitutions from fall 2025 and beyond.
7. Emphasize that all programs provide a GE outcomes assessment report with their normal, periodic campus-based program review. The justification for the ongoing need for GE substitution for the program should be evaluated and reported to the Chancellor’s Office during the annual CSU Academic Master Plan process.

Further details of these recommendations are provided in the *GE Substitutions: Objectives and Implementation* section in the [proposal](#) approved by GEAC on May 14, 2024. GEAC also determined that this is a two-step project: Step 1) CO collects data on what current waivers, exemptions, and substitutions exist on the 23 campuses and reports back to GEAC and the ASCSU (see [resolution](#)). This data collection will take place during the summer months of 2024. Step 2) CO works with GEAC and ASCSU to develop policy

recommendations considering data collected during Step 1 and shares it at their September 2024 meetings for review and feedback prior to publishing.

### c) Guiding notes

#### Charge:

“Provide annual review of the CSU GE Reviewers Guiding Notes.”

#### Recommendation:

GEAC was unable to review the proposed changes to the Guiding Notes at their last meeting on May 14, 2024 due to the fact that the policy changes in GE was finalized as late as early May; hence, there was no opportunity to edit the document in time. It was recommended that GEAC discuss the proposed changes at their meeting in September in 2024.

## 2. Off-cycle meetings

GEAC has participated in several additional meetings (cca. 16 in total) this academic year related to AB928. Three major groups of meetings took place: 1) meetings organized by the Chancellor’s Office; 2) meetings in order to finalize GEAC’s response to its charge with a timeline outside of regular reporting; and 3) meetings to provide feedback on policy changes in CSU GE.

1. Initiated by the CO, several off-cycle meetings took place prior to the Board of Trustees meeting in March (see link below) with the goal to discuss implications of AB928. GEAC, ASCSU leadership, and members of the Academic Affairs Committee of the ASCSU were invited. For these meetings, the CO arranged their own invited speakers and scheduled various presentations for each occasion, leaving little to no time for constructive discussion. These meetings were used by the CO to claim robust consultation (see [Tenets of Shared Governance](#)) and served as the pre-cursor for the CO to align Cal-GETC with CSU GE cutting 5 units of the CSU GE program. Please see the Board of Trustees meetings in [January](#) and in [March](#).
2. GEAC also met twice outside of its regular cycle meetings in order to finalize its response to its charge with deadlines prior to regular reporting: December 15, 2023 (cf., 1/a/i above) and April 15, 2024 (cf., 1/a/ii above).
3. GEAC also met twice outside of its regular cycle meetings in order to provide feedback on policy changes related to the CSU GE program and as it relates to Title 5 changes. Extensive feedback was given by campuses and by GEAC on the draft policy which then was then revised and shared again with GEAC. More specifically:
  - a. The edited version of the feedback for a first review was submitted to the CO and can be found [here](#).
  - b. GEAC suggested further changes to the second draft. These recommendations are reflected in the clean version of the document with (new) track changes including comments linked [here](#). In addition to the editorial recommendations, strong support was shown that Section 5 be reviewed and revised at GEAC’s September 2024 meeting, particularly in regards to two areas: a) 5.1 was suggested to be revised to use more specific language, and b) edits reflecting the separation of Cal-GETC from CSU GE was viewed essential. As for the latter, Senators Rodan

and Van Selst provided some preliminary restructuring of Section 5 post-meeting (see linked [here](#)).

c. Final version of the policy is discussed in the memorandum [here](#).

Due to the arbitrary time-constraint set by the CO, further items (particularly Article 5) will need to be revised in Fall 2024 (see recommendations below).

**3. Other Items Considered or Acted on by the GEAC 2023-2024 Committee**

Updates to the credit by examination articulation list were considered. In particular, the topic of potential use of ACE recommendations re: Carnegie were considered.

**4. Recommendations for Next Year:**

The following recommendations are given for next year:

**a) Policy on General Education**

i) *Review and update CSU GE policy in academic year 2024/25*

It is recommended that GEAC review and update CSU GE policy in AY 2024/25 in areas needing revision for the next version of the policy implemented in 2025/26 (given that no time was allowed for thorough discussion at this time). These are as follows:

1. Lab science (1 unit);
2. Upper/lower division GE (especially for Areas 2 or 5);
3. Separate Cal-GETC from CSU GE in Article 5 (currently somewhat conflated; intention is for Cal-GETC taken at CCC to count for CSU GE, CSU GE intention to remain somewhat more flexible than Cal-GETC currently is);
4. Review Article 5.1 needing more precise language;
5. Credit by exam (effectively no changes for CSU GE).

ii) *Create FAQs website to explain some of the issues needing clarification*

It is recommended that a FAQ page is developed by CO to explain currently unclear issues with new GE policy.

**b) Policy on General Education waivers**

It is recommended that GEAC review draft policy (cf., 1/b above) and collaborate with Academic Affairs to approve policy; Step 1: CO to collect data and write a report (presented to GEAC and ASCSU) on what is happening on campuses in this area (resolution); Step 2: Draft policy to be developed and reviewed by GEAC and Academic Affairs.

**5. ASCSU GE-Relevant Resolutions**

<a href="#"><u>Separation and Timing of Title 5 Changes Relating to CSU General Education Breadth and Cal-GETC</u></a>	AS-3639-23/AA	9/2023	Approved	AA	<a href="#"><u>Response</u></a>
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<u>On California State University General Education and the Tenets of Shared Governance</u>	AS-3643-23/AA	11/2023	Approved	AA	
<u>Call for Task Force on CSU General Education</u>	AS-3647-23/AA	1/2024	Approved	AA	
<u>A Call for Continuing Collaboration on Title 5 Changes</u>	AS-3651-23/AA	1/2024	Approved	AA	
<u>Transfer Admission Routes to the CSU Outside of Cal-GETC</u>	AS-3654-23/APEP	1/2024	Approved	APEP	
<u>On Cal-GETC Alignment and Shared Governance</u>	AS-3676-24/AA	3/2024	Approved	AA	3/2024
<u>Loss of Confidence in the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees, Chancellor, and Administration's Commitment to Consultation on Internal CSU General Education Modification</u>	AS-3694/AA/FA	5/2024	Approved	AA/FA	
<u>Support for a Survey of GE Exemptions and Transfer Admission Waivers in Campus Catalogs</u>	AS-3696-24/AA	5/2024	Approved	AA	

### Common Acronyms

- AA: Academic Affairs (one of the ASCSU standing committees)
- AB: Assembly Bill (cf., AB 928)
- ACE: American Council on Education
- ADT: Associate Degree for Transfer (SB1440-related degree program as offered at a CCC)
- APEP: Academic Preparation and Education Programs (one of the ASCSU standing committees)
- ASCSU: Academic Senate, California State University
- BoT: Board of Trustees
- Cal-GETC: name for the “singular GE transfer pathway” per AB 928 (replacing IGETC)
- CIAC: California Intersegmental Articulation Council
- C-ID: Course Identification Numbering System
- CLEP: College Level Examination Program
- CSU CO: Chancellor’s Office of the California State University (also “CO”)
- GE: General Education
- GEAC: Chancellor’s General Education Advisory Committee (CSU CO)
- Golden Four: the four elements of CSU GE that are required to be completed to be eligible to transfer into the CSU (Oral Communication, Written Communication, Critical Thinking, Quantitative Reasoning/Mathematics)
- GWAR: Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (test or course for rising juniors)
- IGETC: Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum
- SB: Senate Bill (cf., SB 1440)



- TMC: Transfer Model Curriculum (SB 1440-related degree roadmap/constraints)