

4 Motions Related to Gen Ed For First Reading at Faculty Senate, 5.6.22

In what follows, please find sections as follows:

- Section 1: The Four Motions
- Section 2: Edits, Clarifications, Addenda
- Section 3: The Votes
- Section 4: Timeline

References to “RCR” are to the [5.2.22 updated Reconciliation Committee Report here](#); this report is a revision of the [4.28.22 Reconciliation Committee Report](#) with a few edits/additions based on feedback from faculty, the Provost’s Team, and Deans’ Teams; the complete list of edits is included below (see Section 2, “Edits, Clarifications, Addenda”).

Section 1: The Four Motions

- **Motion 1: Faculty Director of General Education**
To endorse the creation and hiring of a new position in the Provost’s office, a new Faculty Director of General Education, in accordance with the recommendations and details described in [RCR, Section I](#) (including the outlined spirit of “Sustained Partnerships” and “Iterative, Nimble, and Responsive Process”).
- **Motion 2: New Gen Ed DEI committee → New DEI Attribute**
To create a Gen Ed DEI Faculty Committee (whose charge and timeline are specified in [RCR, Section I and Appendix B](#)) to be co-chaired by Renée Botta and Lisa Martinez and to be seated under their leadership and in consultation with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and other relevant stakeholders.
- **Motion 3: Curricular Innovation Pilot Courses**
To endorse a two-year funded pilot for innovative new interdisciplinary “linked-teaching” courses that students can take for up to 12-credits of their general education requirements (detailed in [RCR, Section I and Appendix C](#)).
- **Motion 4: Refined Core Area Titles and Descriptions**
To update titles, acronyms, and descriptions of the general education curriculum (detailed in [RCR, Section I and Appendix E](#)) within an expanded framing in terms of “Ways of Knowing, Creating, and Taking Action” (see [RCR, Appendix D](#)).

Section 2: Edits, Clarifications, Addenda

In this section, please find the list of edits made to the original 4.28.22 document reflected in the updated RCR document; these edits are based on faculty, Provost’s Team, and Deans’ Team feedback with approval of the Reconciliation Committee.

In relation to Motion 1 (Hiring a new Faculty Director of General Education)

- 1) In Section I, in the discussion of Process Recommendations, in the description of “Sustained Partnerships” (see page 3), we have added the following sentence:

The partnerships should also include Undergraduate Student Government, the Faculty and Educational Affairs Committee (FEAC) of the Board of Trustees, and other collaborating stakeholders.

- 2) Additionally: Some faculty have asked for more details about how the new director will be hired and who will sit on the new “general committee.” The Director will be appointed by the Provost, in consultation with Faculty Senate leadership, following an internal search with a forthcoming position description. The position will report to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. Further details—including the General Committee’s charge and membership (to include faculty and administrators)—will arise in partnership between the Faculty Director, the Provost’s team, and

Senate leadership; in other words, these answers will emerge in a space of trust related to a new spirit of “Sustained Partnerships” and “Iterative, Nimble, and Responsive Process” which is the context in which the motion for a new Faculty Director is put forward.

In relation to Motion 2 (Seating a new Gen Ed DEI Faculty Committee to help develop a new DEI attribute requirement)

Based on further considerations and consultations, the Reconciliation Committee recommends that the new Gen Ed DEI faculty committee be co-chaired by Renée Botta and Lisa Martinez who will work with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to seat the committee in the Fall. (This addendum has been added to page 9).

Also, we add the following to help clarify the context in which the committee has identified the need for a new DEI attribute, which it would be the work of the new committee to develop:

- The University of Denver has committed to core values of diversity, equity, and inclusion in its vision, values, and mission statements, in the Impact 2025 strategic plan, in pilot programming around the 4D student experience, and in the John Evans Study Committee Report.
- The Faculty Senate has upheld these same values by passing the Inclusive Learning Environments Initiative, by partnering with the Provost and Chancellor to create inclusive pedagogy training for all DU faculty, and by calling upon the University to retire the “Pioneer” moniker in the interest of maintaining inclusive learning environments.
- During the 2017–2019 general education review and inquiry process and the amendment and reconciliation process that has followed it, large majorities of faculty have recommended “a stronger diversity requirement” in order to make good on the University’s promise to undergraduates that they will have a “deep and meaningful engagement with diversity.”
- We have also spoken with Undergraduate Student Government leaders who support the need for increased DEI learning outcomes for students.

In relation to Motion 3 (Endorsing Curricular Innovation Pilot Courses)

Here are additions/edits to the recommendations based on faculty, Provost’s Team, and Deans’ Team feedback with approval of the Reconciliation Committee:

- (1) To clarify the claim that “courses are vetted by a committee of faculty peers (working in suitable partnership with the Provost and Deans’ offices) to approve these pilots”, we add the following (see top of page 11):

Final approval of pilot funds from the provost will be contingent on the appropriate dean's (CAHSS, NSM), director (Writing Program), and/or committee's (FSEM, ASEM) support of the proposal.

- (2) DEI is a core value in the new attribute for which we are seeking to stand up a new Gen Ed DEI committee (see Motion 2); DEI is also a core value in relation to the areas of 'amplification/infusion' discussed in RCR, Appendix D. Understood within this general context where DEI is a core value for all courses across the general education curriculum, we are not listing DEI as a separate criterion for courses in the curricular innovation pilot. (In this regard, the 4.28.22 report mistakenly indicates that pilot courses must earn the DEI attribute; the committee agrees this is not advisable—and it also would not work on the current timeline according to which the DEI attribute will be in development through at least part of next year). The document (bottom of page 12) has been updated accordingly.
- (3) The committee encourages all courses in the general education curriculum to “infuse or amplify” in relation to seven topics identified by the committee (see RCR, Appendix D for the list of seven). That said, we only recommend, not require, that pilot courses address one or more of those topics; in other words, the pilots need not address those topics. The document (bottom of page 12) has been updated accordingly.

In relation to Motion 4 (refining core area titles and descriptions)

We have added the following clarifying bullet point to the very beginning of Appendix E (top of p. 18):

Existing courses that have already been approved for the current general education curriculum will automatically be included in the refined curriculum (though titles and acronyms will have changed). Existing courses will not require review and approval by the Faculty Director of General Education or the General Committee, unless the course is being revised to meet criteria for the DEI attribute.

Section 3: The Votes

Related to Motion 1, the vote will read:

Regarding endorsing the creation and hiring of a new position in the Provost’s office, the new Faculty Director of General Education, in accordance with the recommendations and details described in [RCR, Section I](#) (including the outlined spirit of “Sustained Partnerships” and “Iterative, Nimble, and Responsive Process”), I vote

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Related to Motion 2, the vote will read:

Regarding the creation of a Gen Ed DEI Faculty Committee (whose charge and timeline are specified in [RCR, Section I and Appendix B](#)) to be co-chaired by Renée Botta and Lisa Martinez and to be seated under their leadership and in consultation with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and other relevant stakeholders, I vote

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Related to Motion 3, the vote will read:

Regarding endorsing a two-year funded pilot for innovative new interdisciplinary “linked-teaching” courses that students can take for up to 12-credits of their general education requirements (detailed in [RCR, Section I and Appendix C](#)), I vote

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Related to Motion 4, the vote will read:

Regarding updated titles, acronyms, and descriptions of the general education curriculum (detailed in [RCR, Section I and Appendix E](#)) within an expanded framing in terms of “Ways of Knowing, Creating, and Taking Action” (see [RCR, Appendix D](#)), I vote

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Section 4: Timeline

Some have asked for a timeline formatted as just a list of dates; here that is (based on [RCR, Section II](#) which contains the same information in narrative form):

- 5.6 First Reading @ Faculty Senate
- 5.6 Undergraduate Council review, voting
- 5.27 Second Reading @ Faculty Senate; expected voting
- Then: All-faculty vote