



## NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

General Education Core  
Curriculum Review Committee

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** August 11, 2003

**TO:** University Faculty, Staff and Administrators

**FROM:** General Education Core Curriculum Review Committee (GECCR-C)  
*Doretha Foushee (Biology), Jacqueline Blackmore (History), Nita Dewberry (Foreign Languages), Abede Kebede (Physics), Sandra Alexander (English), Shea Burns (Mathematics), Cynthia Gillespie-Johnson (Technology), Clifford Watkins (Music), Tova Rubin (Education), Linda McIntosh (Nursing), Scott Simkins (Business and Economics), Perry Howard (Agriculture and Environmental Sciences), John Kelly (Engineering), Robert Davis (Sociology), Sanjiv Sarin (Engineering)*

General Education Core Curriculum Review Executive Committee (GECCR-EC)  
*Janice Brewington, Robert Davis, Scott Simkins, Sanjiv Sarin, Charles Williams*

**RE:** General Education Review Plan for 2003-05

We are writing to seek your help and guidance as we begin a two-year long journey to review and revise our general education core curriculum.

In February 2002, Provost Meyers appointed Drs. Robert Davis (Sociology) and Sanjiv Sarin (Engineering) to lead a comprehensive review of the general education core curriculum. Drs. Davis and Sarin invited 13 faculty members from various disciplines to help create the General Education Core Curriculum Review Committee (GECCR-C). Provost Meyers' charge to the committee included three assignments:

1. Assess effectiveness and relevance of present General Education Core Curriculum
2. Examine best-in-field programs
3. Recommend strategies consistent with FUTURES, SACS, and 21st century trends

The GECCR-C carried out a survey of A&T faculty, a transcript analysis, focus group sessions with students and a review of general education at peer institutions. The GECCR-C's report includes a draft statement of general education objectives and recommendations on managing the program. This report and several related documents will be posted by the end of this week at <http://www.ncat.edu/futures>. A copy of the draft statement of objectives is attached here.

During the last academic year, a team of consultants (Dr. James Anderson, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Programs at NC State University; Dr. Marilee Bresciani, Director for Assessment at NC State University; and Dr. David Taylor, Dean, General College, University of Minnesota) conducted an independent study of the general education program at A&T. They met with representatives of various

schools and colleges, faculty senate, center for student success, and FUTURES goals team chairs. Their report consisting of ten recommendations focused on the administration of the general education program at A&T. The GECCR-C reviewed the report and essentially agreed with all their recommendations.

In July 2003, the Provost also appointed a General Education Core Curriculum Review Executive Committee (GECCR-EC) to carry out the administrative duties necessary to support the general education review process. During last summer, the GECCR-EC proposed a two-year plan to engage the faculty in a university-wide dialogue aimed at improving out general education curriculum and to implement a refined curriculum. The plan aims to submit the objectives and general curriculum structure of a new general education curriculum to the faculty senate by May 2004 and to offer pilot courses in fall 2004. Full implementation of the revised curriculum is targeted for fall 2005. An outline of the plan is also attached for your reference.

As outlined in the attached plan, the work to be done includes the following activities:

1. Determine constraints arising from accreditation requirements, UNC-Community College articulation agreements, and other requirements specific to individual degree programs. The result of this exercise should be a range of credit hours that can be devoted to general education without affecting the unique needs of the academic majors.
2. Arrange workshops on general education related topics
3. Conduct a university-wide discussion on general education objectives and arrive at an agreement on the final statement of the objectives. Ensure consistency and alignment with the FUTURES vision.
4. Agree on a strategy for assessing the effectiveness of general education – at the course level and at an aggregate level
5. Establish a revised curriculum – credit hours, course sequencing, how courses relate to majors, etc.
6. Establish a process for admitting a course into the general education program. Clearly, any course that addresses the learning objectives of general education should qualify.
7. Establish a governance structure for general education
8. Continue to develop and refine courses that support general education

All the activities listed above will be carried out through small groups as well as large town hall meetings. Curricular and policy changes will be submitted to the Faculty Senate for approval. The meeting schedule will be distributed to the schools/colleges and will also be posted by the end of this week on the FUTURES website (<http://www.ncat.edu/futures>). In addition to the town hall meetings, you are welcome to join the GECCR-C. If you are interested, please send a message to [davisbob@ncat.edu](mailto:davisbob@ncat.edu), [simkinss@ncat.edu](mailto:simkinss@ncat.edu) or [sarin@ncat.edu](mailto:sarin@ncat.edu).

Once again, we request you to participate in this very important project. We encourage you to take time to review current thinking on general education and general education practices at other universities. A reading list is also attached for your information.

Enclosures:

1. General Education Review Plan
2. First draft of General Education Objectives (to be revised in Fall 2003)
3. General Education Reading List