

February 26, 2018

To: Thomas Holyoke, Chair, Academic Senate
From: Larissa Mercado-Lopez, Chair, M/I Task Force
Re: Report on Proposed M/I Graduation Requirement

As chair of the M/I Task Force, I submit this report to the Academic Senate to inform the Senate of the changes the Task Force is recommending pursuant to Executive Order 1100.

Background: In Fall 2017, Chancellor Timothy White issued Executive Order (EO) 1100 to improve degree progress by “incorporating changes recommended by faculty, students, administrators and the Academic Senate CSU regarding how systemwide GE policy can better: (1) clarify requirements, (2) ensure equitable opportunity for student success, and (3) streamline graduation requirements.”

EO 1100, in effect, restructures the upper-level section of our GE program--reducing the GE pattern from 51 to 48 units--thereby eliminating the Multicultural/International (M/I) requirement from the GE curriculum. The EO, however, does allow for M/I courses to be incorporated into the undergraduate curriculum in other ways, including as a separate graduation requirement.

Response: A campus task force was assembled to consider how to revise our campus M/I GE requirement to comply with EO 1100 while maintaining this core value in our curriculum and ensuring that departments and programs are not heavily impacted. A call for Task Force nominations representing each of the colleges and schools was issued in Fall 2017, after which a committee was assembled.

The Task Force representatives are as follow:

Larissa Mercado-Lopez, Women’s Studies, M/I Task Force Chair
Thomas Holyoke, Political Science, Academic Senate Chair
Xuanning Fu, Dean of Undergraduate Studies
Keith Clement, Undergraduate Curriculum Chair
T. Hasan Johnson, Africana Studies, Provost Appointee
Vivien Luo, Construction Management
Jaydene Elvin, Linguistics
Andreas Stratemeyer, Marketing and Logistics
Christopher Beck, Student Representative

Outcome: The Task Force met during Fall 2017 to consider the options available for amending the GE pattern to comply with EO 1100 and preserve M/I. The committee made the decision to keep M/I by redesignating it as a campus graduation requirement. A campus forum was held in January 2017 to share the proposal with faculty and advisors, answer questions, and take suggestions from faculty for policy clarification. The proposal was well-received and suggestions from faculty were noted. It is important to note that there were no objections to the proposed plan.

Rationale: The committee agreed that preserving M/I was the best choice. The requirement maintains the CSU and Fresno State's commitment to curriculum that teaches cultural literacy, integration, and competence, and importantly, elevates the status and importance of M/I within our curriculum. Importantly, it protects small programs and departments that offer M/I courses regularly and ensures a smooth transition for advisers and students as the campus adjusts to the EO's other changes in GE. Further, the Task Force deems this to be an opportunity for Fresno State to distinguish itself as a campus that is committed to multicultural and global education

Some of the key specifications of the redesignation are as follows:

1. M/I courses may be taken in the student's major department
2. M/I courses will be eligible for double counting within the major
 - Points 1 and 2 will only apply in AY 2018-2019 to courses ALREADY designated in M/I (meaning they are already in our M/I classification)
 - For departments and programs that already have M/I courses, these will automatically double-count within the major, however a department may choose to require its majors to take M/I outside of the department.
3. Implementation will begin in the new 2018-2019 catalog year
4. All existing M/I courses will remain in M/I
5. New M/I courses proposed in Fall 2019 and beyond will be reviewed by the university undergraduate curriculum committee once they pass college approval
 - A department or program may create an entirely new course to be designated as M/I
 - A department or program may also propose that an existing course be designated as M/I
 - In either case the course must be reviewed for approval by a special M/I subcommittee that will be created in AY 2018-2019.
 - The department or program proposing a new course, or designating an existing course, will have to prove to the subcommittee that it meets the goals of M/I and that the department or program has faculty with expertise in M/I.

We foresee the implementation of the changes to occur in two phases:

Phase One: Today - May 2018

April 1: Submit a master memo moving courses into additional degree requirements to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for approval

May 1: Notify the campus about changes for the next catalog year

This will be a global change. No individual program changes will be required.

Phase Two: Fall 2018-Spring 2019

Fall 2018: Formally request that the Academic Senate request that the Academic Senate Policy and Planning Committee create an M/I subcommittee whose membership will be appointed through AP&P's normal call for service process.

Fall 2018 to Spring 2019: Develop new M/I policy, including an M/I course proposal review policy, to be submitted to AP&P by Spring 2019.

Spring 2019: Formalize M/I subcommittee; develop and pass policy on new course proposals; have discussion on name change if desired by the subcommittee