GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FORM

REQUEST FOR "AREA B1-3: SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY" DESIGNATION

**TO:** **Amy Parsons, Chair, Curriculum Committee**

**FROM:** **Sarah Senk, Chair, General Education Committee**

**DATE:** **March 1, 2020**

**SUBJECT:** **Curriculum Change Request: Classification of PHY 105 as Area B1 and PHY 105L as Area B3**

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| Proposed Course Subject: | PHY 105 and PHY 105L |
| Proposed Course Title: | General Physics II and General Physics II Laboratory |
| Submitted by: | Matthew Fairbanks |
| Date Submitted: | February 19, 2020 |

**GE COMMITTEE SUMMARY**

*In the space provided, please include the following information: when the committee met, who was in attendance, who was absent (and for what reason), a record of the vote/decision, and a brief summary of the committee discussion (including justifications for decisions and dissenting opinions):*

The General Education Committee met on Friday, February 28, 2020 to review a Curriculum Change Request to approve PHY 105 and PHY 105L as an Area B1 Physical Sciences course and corresponding Area B3 Laboratory Activity.

Our understanding is that it would be extremely unlikely for students to take this without having placed out of PHY 100 (and therefore getting GE credit anyway), but we wanted to formally approve the course to hedge against the possibility that someone challenges PHY 100 but doesn't formally take a substitute.

In attendance were voting committee members Sarah Senk (Chair), Katherine Luce, Elizabeth McNie (via remote connection), Tom Oppenheim, Joshua Shackman, Aparna Sinha, and Mike Strange. Katherine Sammler, Julie Simons, Cynthia Trevisan, as well as non-voting members Graham Benton and Julia Odom were unable to attend due to conflicts. (The meeting was originally scheduled on Thursday, February 27, but was rescheduled after an All-Hands meeting to discuss the university budget was scheduled at the same time.)

**After reviewing the Curriculum Change Request, the General Education Committee voted 7-0 (with three absences) to designate PHY 105 as a Lower-Division Area B1 Physical Sciences course and PHY 105L as a Lower-Division Area B3 Laboratory Activity.**

When reviewing courses, the GE Committee considers how well a course accords with the description of the subject area in EO1100, and whether or not the course will require that students satisfy the Cal Maritime General Education Learning Outcomes:

| EO1100 Description of Area B 1-3: Physical Science (B1), Life Science (B2), Laboratory Activity (B3) | GE Committee Discussion Notes |
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| In Subareas B1-B3, students develop knowledge of scientific theories, concepts, and data about both living and non-living systems. Students will achieve an understanding and appreciation of scientific principles and the scientific method, as well as the potential limits of scientific endeavors and the value systems and ethics associated with human inquiry. The nature and extent of laboratory experience is to be determined by each campus through its established curricular procedures. | **Discussion was minimal. Committee unanimously agreed that General Physics II and the corresponding Lab syllabus accorded with the EO1100 description of B1 and B3.** |

| Cal Maritime GE Learning Outcomes: Area B1-B3 Scientific Reasoning | GE Committee Discussion Notes |
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| GELO 4: Apply scientific principles and the scientific method to data about both living and non-living systems. | **PHY 105 and 105L DO meet this outcome.** |

The GE Committee votes on whether or not a course should be classified as "General Education" based on the criteria above. However, the committee should preserve a record of any discussion regarding potential impact across the university, overlaps with existing courses, concerns about assessment (including recommendations regarding learning outcomes, assessment plans, etc.), and anything else the committee deems important for the Curriculum Committee to consider in the space below:

| Additional Discussion Notes |
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| Most of the discussion involved whether or not it was necessary to "tag" PHY 105 as a GE course given the likelihood that students would take it without placing out of PHY 100 (which would secure them B1 credit). Fairbanks pointed out that there may be rare circumstances in which a student challenges PHY 100 but doesn't formally take a substitute. |