Synthesis & Summary Document:
Gen Ed Report & Amendments from ARC & Com on Com

The Gen Ed/LACC Report generated two chief points of debate among the Academic Requirements Committee and the Committee on Committees. Point 1 originates in para. 1, section 4 of the Gen Ed/LACC Report; point 2 originates in Appendix 2.

1. Modifying the responsibilities and/or charge of the ARC

Current Charge of the Academic Requirements Committee (ARC):
Academic Requirement Committee shall (1) assist the Registrar with the review of petitions regarding academic requirements; (2) consider various policies concerning academic requirements for admission, continuance in college and graduation; and (3) alert the Faculty Senate of issues concerning students and academic standards which the committee believes are of significance to faculty.

1a. The Gen Ed/LACC report (para. 1, Section 4) proposed expanding the ARC's responsibilities to include: "be[ing] charged with making recommendations regarding General Education courses to the Curriculum Committee. It would also have the authority to evaluate the effectiveness and appropriateness of any component of General Education and to recommend changes to the Senate. In addition, the ARC would oversee the presentation of General Education in the catalog."

1b. The ARC proposed amending one phrase (highlighted) in the above text: An expanded ARC would be charged with making recommendations regarding General Education courses to the Curriculum Committee. It would also have the authority to initiate evaluations of the effectiveness and appropriateness of any component of General Education and to recommend changes to the Senate. In addition, the ARC would oversee the presentation of General Education in the catalog.

1c. The Committee on Committees proposed rejecting both options above and adopting an alternate charge:
   The Academic Requirements Committee shall:
   1. assist the Registrar with the review of petitions regarding academic requirements;
   2. consider various policies concerning academic requirements for admission, continuance in college and graduation;
   3. maintain requirements for LACC, Q, and D course designations, and review and revise one set of designation requirements per year;
   4. manage information and processes for proposing courses for LACC, Q, and D designations, and review proposals according to the appropriate established criteria.
   5. alert the Faculty Senate of issues concerning students and academic standards which the committee believes are of significance to faculty.

Rationale and Discussion (from Com on Com):

1. "New charge has ARC being the "gatekeeper" for most course designations and maintaining and revising admission criteria for the designations. This specific task relates to ARC's general objective to consider academic standards and graduation requirements. The Writing Intensive Committee (WIC) retains responsibility for W designation criteria and for W proposal review.

Designation	Current Review Committee	Proposed Review Committee
D	Curriculum	ARC
W	WIC	WIC
C (D+W)	Curriculum, WIC	ARC, WIC
Q	ARC	ARC
LACC	ARC (a recent addition to their charge)	ARC

2. The Committee on Committees asserts that having a single committee oversee these designations provides consistency in terms of both process and rigor.
3. ARC is not charged with evaluating or assessing the existing courses against the designation criteria, nor is it charged with general oversight and assessment of any of these programs, including of LACC/Gen Ed. Such programmatic assessment requires administrative backing and resources, as well as applicable subject expertise and theoretical understanding, and the Committee on Committees maintains that no Senate committee as we currently structure them has those assets.
4. The activity level of proposals for course designations is low. ARC will be able to accommodate the additional charge without additional committee meetings."

2. ARC Structure and Membership

Current Structure	GEN ED Recommended	ARC Recommended	Com on Com Recommended
COE (Special Educ)	LAS At large (BA)	COE (Special Educ)	COE (Special Educ)
COE (HPE)	LAS At large (BA)	COE (HPE)	COE (HPE)
LAS (Social Science)	COE At large (BA)	COE (DTE)	COE (DTE)
LAS (Psychology)	LAS At large (BS)	LAS (Business)	LAS (Business)
LAS (Creative Arts)	LAS At large (BS)	LAS (Creative Arts)	LAS (Creative Arts)
LAS (Natural Science/Math)	COE At large (BS)	LAS (Computer Science)	LAS (Computer Science)
Student	At large (BFA)	LAS (Humanities)	LAS (Humanities)
Student	At large (BM)	LAS (Natural Science/Math)	LAS (Natural Science/Math)
Academic Advising (NV Ex-O)	Academic Advising (NV Ex-O)	LAS (Psychology)	LAS (Psychology)
Registrar's Office (NV Ex-O)	Registrar's Office (NV Ex-O)	LAS (Social Science)	LAS (Social Science)
		Academic Advising (NV Ex-O)	Academic Advising (NV Ex-O)
		Registrar's Office (NV Ex-O)	Registrar's Office (NV Ex-O)
			Library
			Student
			Student

Notes concerning different structures:
1. GEN ED/LACC committee proposed restructuring the ARC according to degree track: 3 members representing the BA degree; 3 for the BS; 1 for BFA; 1 for BM, plus non-voting ex-officios.
2. ARC proposed restructuring the committee according to divisional representation.
3. Both proposed eliminating the student representative positions, which are usually unfilled.

Commentary from ARC: "The ARC respects the reasoning for the proposed distribution suggested by the Gen Ed/LACC committee but believes that division representation would provide a constant and more comprehensive committee, as detailed below."

Commentary from Com on Com: 1) "Full divisional representation provides for articulation of academic requirements with the whole of the undergraduate faculty. Currently five divisions are represented with an additional faculty slot vacant." 2) In light of the larger ARC, the Committee on Committees recommends that it follow the practice of the Graduate Committee in its review of student petitions: a subgroup (3 members of the Graduate Committee) meets periodically with the Registrar to review and decide upon them.