ANS General Education Requirement Issue

Background: Alaska Native Studies Council submitted letter dated October 22 to BOR requesting that an Alaska Native Studies GER be implemented across the campuses. UAA and UAS student organizations have passed support resolutions. BOR has referred the issue to Faculty Alliance (per Orion). To address this issue UAF could potentially use the request to put forth (again) desired changes to the UA GER regulations/definitions or could make changes only at the UAF level.

Questions:

1. What is the goal? A goal of basic understanding of Alaska Native history and culture requires a different approach than a goal of some exposure to Alaska Native culture.
2. How many students would need to be served? How many students already take at least one course in an Alaska Native related topic?
3. Is the capacity there? What changes would need to be made to serve additional students taking courses in this area?

Potential Options:

1. Select an Alaska Native focused course from current GER classifications: "At least one of the courses selected from the arts, humanities, and social sciences general education requirement classifications must be Alaska Native focused as designated by (something that denotes Alaska Native focus)."
   a. Pros: Would not require students to add another 3 credits of required courses.
   b. Cons: Would require ANS or related courses in each of the categories with sufficient capacity to serve additional students (not there yet).
2. Attribute option (any level): "Complete one designated (something that denotes AN focus) course."
   a. Pros: Provides students with a broad selection of courses related to Alaska Natives, including upper division courses and courses that do not meet GER requirements.
   b. Cons: Courses selected may not provide students with the basic information about Alaska Native culture and history that we really want students to have. Would add an additional 3 credit requirement to degrees.
3. Designated courses (create a new classification similar to Ethics requirement with a handful of approved courses): "Complete one of the following courses."
   a. Pros: Can be more targeted in what we want students to learn and can funnel students into a smaller number of courses (bigger class size).
   b. Cons: Limits student choices. Fits more with PHC approach than classification approach. Would add an additional 3 credit requirement to degrees.

Prepared by Jennifer Carroll for discussion with the Curricular Affairs Committee