

## **General Education Assessment – Discussion Document, Spring 11**

### Goal:

To provide systematic assessment of all aspects of the general education program in relation to stated student learning outcomes (ILOs).

### Components:

#### Student Interviews & Surveys:

Both approaches are directed at specific areas of interest and overall program impact/effectiveness. Surveys could include a subset of questions each year that are specific to the ILOs being targeted that year. Interviews could be used to follow up on information gathered during the previous few years of the cycle.

#### Learning Outcomes Assessment Cycle:

Student work samples are used for the direct assessment of student learning. Samples are evaluated against assessment rubrics aligned to discrete aspects of the ILOs (multiple frameworks, valuing, interaction with others, expression, critical reflection). Student work samples are solicited directly from departments contributing to the program. The general education committee members along with other faculty volunteers participate in a 1.5 day assessment workshop each summer to evaluate the work samples and engage faculty dialogue and development on the outcome being evaluated. Data is recorded and reported in aggregate and a brief summary report is generated each year in relation to the outcome evaluated. The following year the committee provides feedback, faculty development opportunities and suggestions for refinement of the program as warranted. Following completion of the five year cycle all results are again reviewed collectively. A final report with recommendations is generated and the assessment process itself is reviewed before being repeated.

#### Collegiate Learning Assessment:

Administered every fourth year, the CLA provides objective benchmarked data on the effectiveness of several aspects of the ILOs in an integrated fashion. It is a supporting assessment for general education since the impact of the general education program can't be isolated through analysis of the results.

#### Special Projects:

Assessment activities related to specific aspects of general education warranting attention. Special projects may emerge from findings of other assessment activities. Projects are only pursued as warranted.

