

Committee on General Education
Report to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

We have invested considerable effort in the formal process of assessing aspects of the general education program. In this report I would like to suggest that we also apply our skills of observation and reflection to this aspect of the College's curriculum. We have been delivering the new general education program since Fall 2012. In constructing this curriculum we designed new courses and refreshed old courses: nothing was included that had not been re-considered and re-approved.

With three years of experience we are beyond the "growing pains" stage of any innovation and should be seeing engaging, effective courses. Based upon student performance and on our own in-class observations, how are students doing? Are strong students engaged? Are less-well-prepared students lost, learning, growing? Have we managed to sustain enthusiasm in courses students take "just" for general education?

In courses designed specifically for this program – FYS, Connections, the English and History options – are the teaching tools we employ successful in reaching both our content goals and the general education learning outcomes ascribed to our courses? How are logistics working? Are we readily able to offer sufficient sections staffed by full-time faculty and qualified adjuncts?

There are many questions that cannot be answered by assessments and statistics. It is my hope that in AY 2015-2016, we can develop some alternative methods of learning more about what we are doing. My experience is that evidence of success will be equivocal, but if there are problems, we will hear about them.

See <http://www.ric.edu/faculty/organic/coge/> for the latest documents.

Respectfully submitted,

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