

COGE 11/6/2020

J. Wu, D. Gill, J. Zornado, M. Michaud, E. Simson, J. Dagle, S. Pearlmutter, K. Almeida, K. Garabedian, D. Espinoza, M. Baker, S. Oliveira (for Modern Languages), S. Costa, T. Ender

Excused:

S. Brown (for FYS), W. Martin, C. Falangola, J. Capece, B. Caouette

The meeting began on Zoom at 12:32.

Meeting Recording:

https://ricollege.zoom.us/rec/share/l2DNBj9uOTJwJHxiCSjltq4SKOLC9mxzBXv2Gh09eVh_uOqBy60A-RSm2D-I9NO.jA2WLVryyw_qLLqs

Access Passcode: U144F9S.

The Chair shared the meeting agenda and discussed the Teagle Foundation grant opportunity for revising General Education programs around “transformative texts” from the Humanities.

<http://www.teaglefoundation.org/Call-for-Proposals/RFPs/Cornerstone-Learning-for-Living>.

Such a grant would fund the costs of revising General Education while without it how to make any substantial progress in revising Gen Ed seems impossible given the current financial crisis.

The question: should COGE submit a 3-5 page “concept paper” to Teagle to indicate interest in their grant, in the hopes of being invited to submit a full grant proposal? Deadline 12/4/2020. In the end, E. Simson recommended that we submit the letter as a way of keeping our options open going forward.

Discussion followed: S. Costa asked if such a direction would marginalize other fields, including math. Many of our students need a lot of remedial help and how ever we move forward, we need to think about who exactly our students are and the educational needs they bring with them to RIC. D. Espinoza emphasized the importance of students attaining a historical perspective. S. Oliveira spoke about RIC’s Latinx student population and the importance of language skills, both first and second. J. Dagle informed COGE that CCRI students are increasingly completing their second-language requirements at CCRI. J. Wu asked if General Education should be tailored more specifically to students’ majors, so, for example, should Business majors be required to take so much science? Discussion followed about the importance of taking a wide range of required courses, and that learning outcomes should be met by courses traditionally tasked with teaching them.

J. Zornado introduced the second agenda item: assessment of the current General Education program and discussion followed. Many faculty do not have a clear sense about General Education, and whether it is meeting the needs of students, or not. Discussion followed. The Chair suggested that, based upon the last two COGE meetings, that we should take up the task of completing the assessment of our current Gen Ed program using a model employed by URI. A sub-committee will meet to move the assessment process forward.

Last, the discussion of the faculty survey followed as part of COGE's review of the current Gen Ed program. A sub-committee will meet to move forward on survey design and implementation.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Zornado

Addendum to the minutes: the RIC General Education website has been updated. Most of the information from Jim Magyar's COGE site has been moved to the RIC Gen Ed site.