

**Report of the Committee on General Education
to the Rhode Island College Curriculum Committee**

May 20, 2011

COGE chair James Magyar was on sabbatical in the spring of 2011. I served as his sabbatical replacement this semester. He will be returning to COGE this coming fall.

At the beginning of the spring, COGE was “on hold” while the General Education Task Force (GE-TF) worked to put together revised outcomes and a new structure for the general education program here at RIC. The following page shows a timeline of the general education events from this spring. After the GE-TF submitted its draft proposal, they hosted three open meetings with faculty. COGE members were encouraged to attend these meetings, which were held on March 29, 30, and April 1. Their final draft was submitted April 21, and their final report with recommendations for assessment was submitted on May 3rd. Task force members worked hard since September on the proposal and deserve our thanks.

COGE had four meetings in April and May, as shown on the timeline. Agendas for these meetings are also given on the next page of this report. All these meetings dealt with the new proposal, though there was only one meeting after the final version with assessment recommendations was submitted (submitted May 3rd, COGE meeting May 11th).

At its last meeting, on May 11th, COGE officially received the final report of the task force, including the recommendations for assessment. This meeting was well attended by faculty. Many TF members were there as well as many who were neither members of COGE nor of the TF, but simply came out of interest in the process. There were over forty people present at the meeting, representing more than thirteen departments. The fact that such a large group of faculty came to a COGE meeting at the busy end of the semester, in the middle of finals week, shows that RIC faculty are keenly interested in general education and willing to dedicate their time to a healthy and energizing discussion. While I will not be chair this coming fall, I look forward to participating in fall meetings on the subject of general education.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura F. Cooley
Acting Chair
Committee on General Education
Spring 2011

**General Education:
Spring 2011**

Committee on General Education
April 8, 2011 – 10:00-11:00 AM
Agenda

1. Opening comments/welcome
2. Scheduling of next COGE meetings
3. Task Force draft of new general education program
 - a. Review of the process thus far
 - b. Brief review of what the current draft contains
 - c. Strengths of proposal (see "comments" handout)
 - d. Discussion of concerns of members and faculty at open meetings (see handout)
4. Adjourn

Committee on General Education
April 15, 2011 – 10:00-11:00 AM
Agenda

1. Introductory comments
2. The case for science in general education
 - a. Prominent position of science in documentation from:
 - RI College – Vision statement
 - NEASC Guidelines
 - Essential Outcomes article – AACU/LEAP
 - b. Concerns of scientists on the RIC faculty
 - Letter from chair of physical sciences (Glenisson de Oliveira, former STEM director and co-PI for NSF (RITES) grant) to COGE, CC, Council
 - Memo from chair of biology and biology faculty to COGE (Eric Hall)
 - Letter from physical science department to Task Force
 - c. Comparison to other institutions (handout)
 - d. Scientific preparedness for modern world (jobs, quote on bottom of LEAP article handout)
3. Adjourn

Committee on General Education
April 22, 2011 – 10:00-11:00 AM
Agenda

1. GE-TF final report – plans for Town Hall style meeting to hear feedback on final proposal from faculty
2. Assessment – information and discussion
 - David Espinosa
 - David Sugarman
3. Summer availability
4. Adjourn

Committee on General Education
May 11, 2011 – 12:30-2:00 PM
Agenda

1. Welcoming remarks
2. Writing 100 Presentation
Becky Caouette, Director of Writing, Q&A
3. Receipt of General Education Task Force's proposal, with assessment piece
Maureen Reddy (chair of the task force) and/or other task force members, Q&A
4. Responses to structure proposed by GE-TF
 - Response from Glenisson de Oliveira, chair of physical sciences, former STEM director, Q&A
 - Response regarding quantitative reasoning skills, Q&A
5. Initial comments on General Education assessment by Pat Thomas, Assistant to the VPAA, Q&A
6. Closing Remarks by Chair
7. Adjourn

**GE-TF = General
Education Task Force**

GE-TF submits preliminary proposal for gen ed structure

Open meetings hosted by GE-TF

1 2 3

COGE Meeting 1

COGE Meeting 2

GE-TF submits final proposal for new gen ed structure

COGE Meeting 3

GE-TF submits proposal with assessment recommendations

COGE Meeting 4

Mar 18

Mar 29

Mar 30

Apr 1

Apr 8

Apr 15

Apr 21

Apr 22

May 3

May 11