

Rhode Island College
Annual Report of the Committee on General Education
May 13, 2022

Overview

COGE had a busy and productive year in its ongoing effort to gather and assess the current state of the college's General Education program. COGE completed the first stage in General Education program review and looks forward to working with faculty and a Task Force on General Education to continue reviewing and possibly revising General Education at the college.

Ongoing COGE Business

- The chair of COGE was asked to participate on an ad hoc committee to make recommendations to the Provost regarding a faculty contract MOU related to compensation for activities beyond the normal scope of teaching and service. Recommendations were sent to the Provost February, 2022. The Provost and AFT president met in May to discuss, and hopefully Gen Ed assessment will proceed in the fall of 2022.
- J. Zornado, S. Costa, J. Capece, T. Chadhurri along H. Tate attended the AAC&U's summer institute on General Education in June 8-11, 2021 via Zoom in order to better understand best practices and national trends related to General Education, assessment, and ways we might improve our current program.
- COGE met monthly throughout the academic year with supplemental discussions via email ongoing. It was an active and productive year.

COGE Committee Developments

- COGE discussed and approved the Writing Board's proposal to separate WID from COGE and place WID under the oversight of the Writing Board. The Chair of the Writing Board will no longer be a standing member of COGE.
- J. Dagle will be a member *ex officio* of COGE in the next academic year.
- Tommy Ender from will be replaced by Rudolf Krauss for Secondary Education
- COGE decided to set a fixed schedule going forward. COGE will meet on the first Friday of each month at 9am.

COGE, CCRI, and URI

- The chair of COGE met with faculty from URI responsible for their General Education revision, along with S. Abbotson and H. Tate. September, 2021

Regular COGE Business

- Math 139 proposal to re-imagine curriculum was unanimously approved 10/23.
- Bachelor of Professional Studies approved and forward to UCC
- Philosophy Proposal for a new general education, Philosophy 261. Unanimously approved
- Modern Languages proposal: a program revision reducing the French, Portuguese, and Spanish concentrations of the Modern Languages B.A. from 46, 47-48 credits to 40 credits. This proposal aligns with college guidelines for Liberal Arts programs not to exceed 40 credits and adds one General Education course to the major. Unanimously approved

- Comm 220 proposal to make Comm 220 a distribution course option for General Education credit and also to cross list it as Music 220. COGE received and accepted the revisions with a unanimous vote.
- Learning Outcome revision: G. Dragan representing the Library proposed an updated statement regarding the Learning Outcome “Research Fluency” by proposing to change the language to “Research and Information Literacy.” The proposal was unanimously approved.

General Education Review

- COGE completed and reviewed the Student Survey of General Education—3/2022
- COGE recommended to the Provost that an ad hoc committee to student General Education be formed to determine the possibility of moving forward with a Task Force to review and possibly revise General Education. Work began in March.
- The ad hoc committee presented its findings to COGE, UCC, and to faculty via two “town hall” Zoom meetings in the April, 2022. Afterwards, a Qualtrics poll was sent out asking faculty if they supported the idea of a Task Force to review and possibly revise General Education.
- Results of the faculty General Education Qualtrics Poll:
42% of full-time faculty responded 124 FT faculty (294 total) and 18 adjunct faculty

With representation from all schools/divisions across the college and of all ranks of faculty members, 82% of respondents (n= 142) support forming a task force to review and potentially revise gen ed. The poll results show wide-spread support among faculty in favor of the creation of a Task Force on General Education. COGE will continue to assure the review and possible revision of General Education is a faculty-led process.

Recommendations from the ad hoc committee to Study General Education:

- Based on the results of the faculty poll, the Ad Hoc subcommittee formally recommended a task force be created to review and potentially revise the general education program at RIC.
- In the creation of a Task Force, it is important that all faculty have the opportunity to volunteer to participate and that faculty are chosen with the broadest possible representation including division, rank, discipline and demographics.
- To acknowledge the size and importance of this task, the administration should offer some form of compensation or appropriate support for the task at hand.
- In the open call for volunteers, it would be helpful to offer a timeframe of the commitment (expectations for the length of the commitment, frequency of meetings and time of meetings) so that faculty can ensure they have allotted the time to devote to the task force.

COGE voted unanimously to receive and approve of the ad hoc committee’s recommendations and send them to the Provost, May 8, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. Zornado, Chair COGE
Professor of English

COGE Membership 2021-22

J. Zornado, (chair) English
S. Costa, Math
M. Reddy, FYS Coordinator
B. Caouette, Director of First Year Writing
W. Martin, Art
E. Miller, History
S. Oliveira, Modern Languages
K. Almeida, Physical Science
D. Gill, Library
T. Ender, Ed Studies
S. Ross, Nursing
J. Capece, BSW
M. Michaud, WID
P. Gullapali, Anthropology
H. Shadoian, Provost's designee
E. Simson, Dean, FAS
J. Dagle, FAS designee