

COGE Meeting Minutes Friday, 10/7/22

In attendance: J. Zornado (chair); K. Almeida; S. Costa; P. Gullapalli, J. Fearon-Lynch; E. Miller; S. Oliveira; B. Caouette; M. Reddy; J. Capece; J. Dagle; R. Kraus; W. Martin; G. Dragan

Guests: D. Ramirez; E. Papa; M. Medevide; E. Zito; Laura; (iPhone;

Excused: H. Shadoian;

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

Announcements from the Chair:

1. The Chair discussed his appointment as Presidential Faculty Fellow. Discussion followed. COGE recommended that Chair of College Council, (V. Endress) and the President of the RICAFT issue a statement of support for the Chair of COGE in his capacity as Chair of COGE and Co-Chair of the Gen Ed Task Force as way of assuring faculty the process has not been compromised. The Chair shared the RIC President's plan to support the SoB's desire to quickly come up with a Gen Ed program suited to their students, and potential students, by-passing COGE and the Task Force. COGE agreed to produce a mid-semester General Education report to the President and Provost sternly objecting to such a plan.
2. Gen Ed Assessment Update
COGE remains on track to roll out a new and improved process of General Education assessment. The coordinator of FAS assessment has helped to prepare a Qualtrics tool that will allow faculty to input their assessment data. T. Chauduri will offer COGE a tour, and seek feedback for the assessment tool, at the November COGE meeting.

The Chair also raised the question of whether or not COGE wanted to begin a process of Learning Outcomes review in light of our plans to assess our current (and future) gen ed program. This would also entail updating—or revising entirely—our Learning Outcomes Assessment Rubrics. No decision was made.

3. E. Miller and P. Gullapalli reported on current institutional challenges to General Education that go beyond gen ed curriculum and instead focus on institutional processes that are currently broken, especially in regards to transferring. Discussion followed. COGE largely agreed that the college needed some sort of Transfer Coordinator who could take responsibility for the various ways Transfer information is shared, updated, and aligned with websites from the state, CCRI, and URI. COGE agree that this should also be included in our mid-semester report to the administration.
4. General Education Task Force Update
K. Almeida reported that the task force has met twice. Task Force work has gathered some momentum and the group looks forward to exploring specific ways to improve our current program while capping it at 40 credits and working to lower transfer barriers. The Task Force has been exploring, among other fundamental design principles, the question of our current “distribution model” versus a “learning outcomes” model.

5. Second Language Requirement

COGE took up the question of the current Second Language requirement. Unfortunately, some stakeholders had to leave the meeting before we came to this topic. S. Oliveria spoke to the need to think not about “eliminating” the Second Language requirement, but rather, reframing it in terms of General Education. Discussion followed. The Chair explained that reimagining the Second Language requirement does not eliminate language study, rather, it removes it as a universal requirement while leaving it intact for those who want to pursue it. D. Ramirez spoke to the importance of language and cultural study and what it means for students now and after graduation.

Respectfully submitted,

JZ

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