

Council on General Education Minutes
September 19, 2023
10-11:00 a.m., STV 140

Presiding: Gregory Ferrence

Present: Brian Aitken, Allison Antink Meyer, Gregory Braswell, Linda Clemmons, Gregory Ferrence, Amy Hurd, Joshua Newport, Chris Worland, Haiyan Xie

Guests:

Malinda Aiello, Program Director, Illinois Articulation Initiative
Ryan Smith, Director, University Assessment Services

Ferrence called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Action Items:

1. Introductions

Introductions were made. The Council welcomed new member, Joshua Newport as the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee representative.

2. Approval of September 5, 2023 Minutes

Ferrence asked if there were any corrections to the minutes as submitted. There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

3. IDS 310 Innovation Consulting Community (new IDS course)

The course was proposed by Dr. Peter Kaufman, Professor, Department of Marketing.

Ferrence reminded Council members of the previous meeting's discussion regarding the course. During the previous meeting, Council members noted a syllabus had not been submitted as part of the proposal. Kaufman revised the proposal to include the syllabus. Hurd added that the course was not repeatable for credit and would not count in the Entrepreneurship minor which were two questions the Council raised in its previous discussion and Kaufman provided answers to.

After reviewing the syllabus, Worland raised the question regarding students having to complete prep modules the semester prior to taking the course. He noted the modules counted toward 20% of the final grade per the syllabus and wondered if there was already a precedent in place for such a requirement. Clemmons noted her City as Text courses require students to complete prep work. Newport noted it wasn't unusual for capstone courses within the majors to require students to complete prep work prior to the course. Aitken asked if students registered for two classes in this instance. Newport verified that was the case. Council members could not determine if students could wait to complete the modules once the course began or if they had to be completed prior to the start of the course. Council members also wanted to ensure the course was following Registrar procedures and wondered if the modules could be taken on a pass/fail basis. Ferrence suggested the Council invite Kaufman to attend a future meeting to discuss the Council's concerns.

Worland made a motion to table the course and invite Kaufman to attend a Council meeting to discuss the Council's questions. Aitken seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

Simmons will contact Kaufman to invite him to attend a future meeting.

Information Items:

4. General Education Assessment Update – Ryan Smith

Smith distributed handouts to Council members to give them an overview of the proposed General Education assessment plan and an overall update. See Appendix A.

Smith explained how the proposed plan would utilize Canvas to pull course information for assessment. Council members discussed the benefits and potential issues with using Canvas in this way depending upon the diverse types/nature of assignments collected across General Education courses. Following discussion, Ferrence asked Smith what his expectation was from the Council. Smith responded he would like to have an endorsement from the Council to move forward with the proposed plan. Ferrence asked Council members to review the plan and it would be added as an action item for the next meeting.

5. Council Member Vacancy Update

Newport mentioned he had received an internal departmental update that announced the new representatives to fill the Council's vacancies. Ferrence asked if the individuals had been contacted by the Council. Simmons noted the Council had not received official notice of the appointments from the Academic Senate. She will follow-up with Academic Senate Chair Horst.

Ferrence made a motion to adjourn. Clemmons seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons

General Education Assessment Plan: Overview

Fall 2023

The general education curriculum needs an assessment plan

Review of the curriculum is the responsibility of the Council on General Education. One of the charges of the CGE is: "To periodically review and analyze existing General Education and IDS courses and programs, based on program objectives and student outcomes."

1. An evaluation process will inform decisions about **what students should learn** and how the **general education curriculum** is working.
2. An evaluation process will **provide a framework** for making improvements to the general education curriculum.
3. An evaluation process will **capture student, faculty and staff perspectives** on general education.

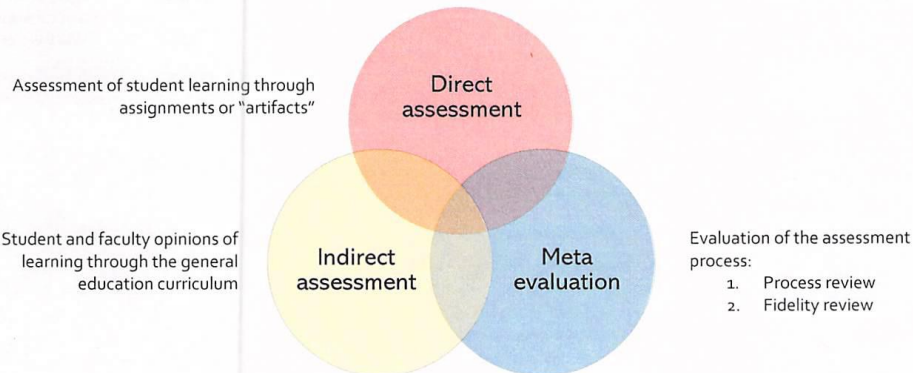
A gen ed assessment plan does not:

- ✓ Evaluate teaching
- ✓ Report results at the individual course levels

What's working?

- Faculty discipline, content, teaching and curriculum design expertise.
- A governance entity devoted to general education (CGE).
- Instructional design professionals in the Center for Integrated Professional Development (CIPD).
- Assessment and evaluation capacity in academic and student affairs.
- Learning theory experts in a variety of disciplines (psychology, communications, human development, etc.).
- An LMS (Canvas) to organize and collect assessment results.
- Quantitative and qualitative data analysis infrastructure in UAS, EDA and the CGE.

An assessment framework for general education



A plan to keep us on track

2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
DIRECT ASSESSMENT					
Planning Math & QR* (pilot) Nat. Sci. (pilot) Fine arts Humanities Critical inquiry-	Planning Ind. in civic life U.S. traditions Social sci.	Planning Math & QR Nat sciences Sci, math & tech	Planning Fine arts Humanities Critical inquiry-	Planning Ind. in civic life U.S. traditions Social sci.	Planning Math & QR Nat sciences Sci, math & tech
Assessing & Learning Math & QR (pilot) Nat. Sci. (pilot) Ind. in civic life+ Social sci.+	Assessing & Learning Fine arts Humanities Critical inquiry-	Assessing & Learning Ind. in civic life U.S. traditions Social sci.	Assessing & Learning Math & QR Nat sciences Sci, math & tech	Assessing & Learning Fine arts Humanities Critical inquiry-	Assessing & Learning Ind. in civic life U.S. traditions Social sci.
	Communicating & Improving Math & QR (pilot) Nat. Sci. (pilot)	Communicating & Improving Fine arts Humanities Critical inquiry-	Communicating & Improving Ind. in civic life U.S. traditions Social sci.	Communicating & Improving Math & QR Nat sciences Sci, math & tech	Communicating & Improving Fine arts Humanities Critical inquiry-
INDIRECT ASSESSMENT					
	Indirect Student survey (spring)	Indirect NSSE#	Indirect Faculty feedback^	Indirect Student survey (spring)	Indirect NSSE#
ASSESSMENT PLAN REVIEW & UPDATE (META EVALUATION)					
Update gen ed assessment plan – UAS (summer)	Update gen ed assessment plan – UAS (summer)	Fidelity evaluation Update gen ed assessment plan – UAS (summer)	Gen ed assessment process review Update gen ed assessment plan – UAS (summer)	Update gen ed assessment plan – UAS (summer)	Fidelity evaluation Update gen ed assessment plan – UAS (summer)

*QR = quantitative reasoning

+Fulfills HLC requirement

#National survey of student engagement. Another survey may be used in place of NSSE in the future.

^Faculty feedback may take the form of a survey, focus groups or feedback from symposia or other gatherings.

-Includes both composition and communication as critical inquiry.

The plan for this year: 2023-24

Categories

- Math & QR (pilot)
- Nat. Sci. (pilot)
- Fine arts
- Humanities
- Critical inquiry

Planning

Fall 2023: Math, Quantitative Reasoning & Natural Science – assessment in spring 2024.

1. Communicate to faculty – UAS.
2. Review rubric – CGE.
3. Upload category learning outcomes and rubrics to Canvas – UAS.

Fall 2023/Spring 2024: Fine Arts & Humanities – assessment in fall 2024 or spring 2025.

1. Communicate to faculty – CGE / UAS.
2. Review rubric – CGE / panel of faculty in category.
3. Upload category learning outcomes and rubrics to Canvas – UAS.

Assessing & Learning

Fall 2023: Individuals in Civic Life & Social Sciences

- Conduct assessment under previous system – UAS.
- Need reviewers for Social Sciences.

Spring 2024: Math, Quantitative Reasoning & Natural Science categories in spring 2024 in Canvas.

1. Upload category learning outcomes and rubrics to Canvas – UAS.
2. Faculty engage in embedded assessment in their courses.
3. Results tabulated in the data warehouse – EDA.

Communicating & Improving

- Not applicable in 2023-24.

What we need from CGE

- Endorsement.
- Leadership.
- Representation in the assessment process.