

General Education Update—Moving Forward

Dear Colleagues,

After meeting with many of you and listening to some of the concerns, a solution that would allow for the new general education to move forward was developed. The main attempt is to remove the Mission Core and Writing Intensive elements, and develop these further in upcoming weeks. In preparation for the February 29, 2012 FGA Meeting, FAC would like to provide you with an overview of what we believe to be the next steps in moving the new general education program forward.

Background. After the May 4, 2011 FGA vote in favor of the new General Education *Culture and the Common Good* structure, the General Education Task Force, which had spearheaded this initiative, was dissolved. With the transition in academic leadership, the implementation phase was delayed and subsequently initiated on December 6, 2011. While the faculty worked on the learning outcomes in October, the majority of the work on implementation policies and procedures has occurred since December 6, 2011. While hindsight offers a 20/20 view in terms of lessons learned, the FGA is now positioned to move forward.

Gratitude. FAC wishes to extend our gratitude to our colleagues who were appointed to the General Education Implementation Task Force and those colleagues who have worked on the Mission Core—Steph Paine-Saunders, Julie Portman, Jane Theissen, Corinne Taff, Joyce Johnson, Randy Rosenberg, Lee DeLaet, and Steve Rankin. In very short order, these colleagues worked throughout December and January to draft the documents that have come to the FGA floor for review. Because of their efforts, the FGA was positioned to critique these documents and offer positive recommendations that will contribute to the full development of an excellent general education experience for Fontbonne University students.

Immediate Steps. The FGA Agenda for February 29, 2012 reflects the feedback provided through FGA discussion about the general education motion. Following the process outlined below (approved by the FGA parliamentarians—Lynne Shields and Michael Sullivan), three modifications of the motion will be presented:

1. Beth Newton will withdraw her motion to amend the motion currently under discussion by the FGA body.
2. Steph Paine-Saunders will request permission to amend the motion. The modifications to the motion are explained below; the full text of each modification can be found in the FGA Agenda for February 29, 2012:
 - a. Modification one of the Motion: Learning Outcomes—this motion includes only the learning outcomes for Mission Core I, Mission Core II, Foundations, Pillars and Bridges components of the general education experience, *Culture and the Common Good*.
Writing Intensive has been removed from this motion.
 - b. Modification two of the motion: Foundations Courses—this motion aims to re-populate the Foundations portion of the general education experience, *Culture and the Common Good*, with **courses that are recognized as current general education courses.**
 - c. Modification three of the motion: Pillars Courses—this motion aims to re-populate the Pillars portion of the general education experience, *Culture and the Common Good*, with **courses that are recognized as current general education courses.**

Next Steps. In an effort to complete the implementation process of the general education experience, *Culture and the Common Good*, the FGA can expect the following next steps:

1. INT 105 course modification will be presented to UCC/FAC/FGA seeking approval as a general education course.
2. Bridges criteria will be outlined and a process for course selection/adoption will be determined by UCC which will be moved to FAC/FGA for approval. After FGA approval, this process will be utilized to populate the Bridges components with courses that meet these criteria. Approval of these courses will generate from UCC and move to FAC/FGA.
3. Mission Core II Common Component: Faculty can expect that a discussion will ensue regarding the development and implementation of the MCII common component. After discussion and agreement, the common component will be presented for approval to UCC/FAC/FGA.
4. Writing Intensive (WI): Dr. John Bruno, VPAA, will facilitate discussion with Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC), UCC, FAC, and Assessment Committee to determine how the WI will be implemented (criteria, learning outcome(s), course selection, artifact construction, artifact assessment, and other concerns). After an implementation process has been determined, approval will be sought from UCC/FAC/FGA.

Thanks to all of you for your commitment to building an excellent general education experience for all Fontbonne University students.

The Faculty Affairs Committee