

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 11, 2013

FROM: Faith Hensrud, Provost *Faith C. Hensrud*

TO: Wendy Kropid
Chair, Faculty Senate

RE: General Education Program Review and Integration of and Synthesis of Institutional Learning Goals

I welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you or the Senate Executive Committee, and welcome your input into these two processes.

General Education Program Review

UW-System Policy published in Academic Information Series 1 (ACIS-1) requires that all UW institutions conduct an Institutional Review of their General Education Program every 10 years in conjunction with their Higher Learning Commission review. ACIS 1.0 is attached with program review of general education excerpted below:

Institutional Review of General Education Programs

Every 10 years, in conjunction with their North Central Association (NCA) accreditation reviews, UW institutions are required to report to the Board of Regents on their General Education programs. This report should include discussion of the institution's philosophy of general education, including specific goals for the general education curriculum; an overview of the current general education program; a description of how the general education curriculum provides students with opportunities to achieve institutional goals; and a description of ongoing assessment process for reviewing and improving the general education program.

UW-Superior has not completed a review of its General Education Program since 1996. We did not review our General Education Program in conjunction with our 2013 self-study because our General Education Learning goals were under revision. I met with members of the General Education Committee on September 30, 2013 to share System Policy (ACIS 1) and to also review the concerns shared by the HLC Review Team related to both General Education and the need to streamline, merge or integrate the myriad of learning goals that we have established. We are required to submit a monitoring report to HLC in December 2015 that addresses this integration.

Given the facts that we did not complete a review of our general education program, there are three processes that must be developed and implemented over the next two to three years, and for which Governance must be engaged. I am suggesting the order of these processes as they are related to one another and seek input from Faculty Senate on this. The first two processes are related to General Education Program Review:

- 1) **Academic Program Review Council:** Recommend that Faculty Senate charge the APRC to include the General Education Program Review in their review cycle for all academic programs with the review to begin in 2013-14. Process and guidelines for the review should be developed

by the APRC in consultation with the General Education Committee, best practices, and in accordance with ACIS 1.0.

- 2) **General Education Committee:** Recommend the General Education Committee be charged to complete the Review of the General Education Program in accordance with ACIS 1.0 and APRC guidelines every 10 years, with the next review to begin this fiscal year (2013-14). As discussed with the General Education Committee this goes above and beyond the review of courses and the charge should be written to include the specific language in ACIS 1.0.

Proposed Charge for General Education Program Review: Charge the General Education Committee to research philosophies and models and best practices for general education; examine how the general education program meets the institutional learning outcomes (once they are revised by the Integration Team); and adopt or adapt a complementary philosophy for general education; adapt or adopt a general education model that fits the philosophy and helps to meet institutional outcomes; and develop criteria for course submission and regularized course review for general education.

Integration of Institution Level Learning Goals: Establish a group of faculty and staff to complete the review of and Integrate the Liberal Education Goals, General Education Learning Goals, HIPS goals, and co-curricular goals. The result should be a set of shared learning outcomes that articulates what every student should be able to know and do when they complete a UW-Superior degree. The learning outcomes must be SMART: (S-Specific; M-Measurable; A-Achievable; R-Realistic; and T-Timely), and should be informed by UW-Systems Shared Learning Goals. Work that was started at the August 2013 Enhancement Day will be shared with the group that undertakes this task.

Potential Membership of the Integrated Learning Outcomes Integration Group: This Learning Outcomes Integration Group should include members from the following areas: HLC Assessment Academy Team; General Education Committee; High Impact Practices; Assessment Coordinator; and Co-curricular; Other). The team should be limited to 8 or 9 individuals who are committed to this work.

Recommend that this group be formed jointly by the Provost and Governance and be charged to begin its work in January 2014. Charge of the team and timeline for completion of this work will be determined with Governance input, and consideration of our HLC Evaluation report from 2013, as well as requirements for the HLC 2015 Monitoring Report and associated timelines.

Development of the Timeline for Integration of Institutional Learning outcomes and General Education Program Review:

Step 1: Integrated learning outcomes developed and in place by _____date?

Step 2: General program review complete. General education outcomes would be reaffirmed as part of the program review or revamped. Date?

Step 3: Development of an Assessment plan for General Education and the Integrated Learning outcomes. Date?

Step 4: Assessment results for Institutional Learning outcomes, program outcomes and general education outcomes collected, analyzed and used to inform planning and budgeting. Date?