

Rhode Island College
Annual Report of the Committee on General Education
May 16, 2014

Students who entered Rhode Island College in fall, 2012, have completed two years of the current general education program. Every course offered has been newly created or redesigned and approved by COGE and by the UCC. Students whose requirements are in the former program also benefit from these new courses, which replace courses in the old order. During the 2013-2014 academic year, COGE met nine times to review additional proposals and to oversee the implementation of the new program. In addition to courses, COGE reviewed Writing in the Discipline plans for many programs.¹

Writing in the Discipline is an integral component of the general education program. COGE will spend additional time in AY 2014-2015 exploring how these Writing programs are implemented and how departments can gauge their effectiveness. We hope to share success stories and caveats with the College community in the fall.

Fall 2014 will mark the third year of the First Year Seminar program under the leadership of Dr. Quenby Hughes. We are approaching the point at which the majority of students who began their careers at the College will have had a First Year Seminar experience. Dr. Hughes continues to be successful in recruiting faculty to teach these courses.

First Year Writing is a more mature program, led by Dr. Becky Caouette. This year's exciting innovation is the introduction of FYW 100 Plus, which combines the credits of Writing 010 and FYS 100 into an intensive integrated course that is much more than a combination of two courses.

The assessment of the general education learning outcomes of *Critical and Creative Thinking*, *Written Communication*, and *Research Fluency* was piloted last summer and was reported to the faculty in an open convocation in the fall. Many of our colleagues participated in the assessment effort. Special note is made of the global summaries prepared by Drs. Shani Carter and Dan Weisman. This summer, the revised rubrics will be used to assess these three outcomes in FYS and FYW. They will be piloted on a few samples from Connections courses.

During AY 2013-2014, Teams led by Drs. Julie Urda and Audrey Olmsted began work on assessment methods for *Oral Communication* and *Collaborative Work*. These proposed assessments will be piloted over the summer and fall.

Future direction include the implementation of the OC and CW assessments in FYS, FYW, and Connections courses in AY 2013-2014 and the extension of the CCT, WC, and RF rubrics to

¹ <http://www.ric.edu/faculty/organic/coge/wid/>

Connections. It is necessary to explore how these five learning outcomes can be assessed in the distribution courses to which they apply.²

Like writing in the disciplines, the second language requirement is met in many ways. Students register for courses, present test results, and demonstrate their competency by transcript. Dr. Olga Juzyn is managing this program quietly and competently.

A general education program represents the faculty's best attempt at a particular time to define the knowledge, skills, and attitudes we expect our graduates to attain. A particular program is relevant as long as the faculty continue to support it by creative course design and involved teaching. Faculty energy and commitment join with our best professional efforts at qualitative and quantitative assessment to ensure that the program we are offering continues to be effective in meeting its goals.

Thanks are due to the members of COGE, listed below and to Dean Joan Dagle, who is the administrator responsible for the day-to-day operation of General Education. We also acknowledge the efforts of our professional colleagues in Records and Management Information Systems who helped manage the transition from one program to another in a way that was least disruptive to students.

Additional numerical information will be provided at <http://www.ric.edu/faculty/organic/coge/>.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Magyar, Chair

² http://www.ric.edu/faculty/organic/coge/Learning_Outcomes_by_course_category.pdf

COGE 2013-2014 Membership

Name	Department	Constituency
Denise Guilbault	Music, Theater, and Dance	Arts
David Espinosa	History	History
Olga Juzyn	Modern Languages	Language
Daniel Scott, III (fall) Russell Potter (spring)	English	Literature
Stephanie Costa	Mathematics	Mathematics
James Magyar, Chair	Physical Science	Natural Science
Emily Cook	Psychology	Social and Behavioral Science
Tish Brennan	Reference	Adams Library
Julie Urda	School of Management	School of Management
Ezra Stieglitz	Elementary Education	Feinstein School
Mary Byrd	Nursing	School of Nursing
Dan Weisman (fall) Stefan Battle (spring)	MSW	School of Social Work
Michael Michaud	English	Chair of Writing Board (or designee)
Becky Caouette	English	Director of Writing (or designee)
Quenby Hughes	History	FYS Coordinator
Ron Pitt	VPAA	VPAA or designee
Earl Simson	Faculty of Arts and Sciences	Dean, FAS (or designee)
Vacant	Student	Student