

Rhode Island College
Annual Report of the Committee on General Education
May 11, 2016

On May 14, 2016, the first cohort of students who have experienced four years of current general education program at Rhode Island College will graduate from the College.

Assessment

Honoring the mandate to assess the general education program, a dedicated group of faculty evaluated artifacts from FYS and FYW during the summer. Dr. Stephanie Costa analyzed the results of the assessment and presented a detailed [report](#).

Dr. Maureen Reddy, the College's assessment coordinator, proposed a different approach to this year's assessment project. This year the first group to have experienced the new program is graduating, as well as many students who were in the old program. Maureen provided a description of the progress of this assessment project.

The project is underway. Faculty members who teach senior courses in all but one of our schools (SSW chairs did not respond to my repeated requests) are sending me their final papers right now. I expect to have about 400 papers. I will be sorting them based on each student's General Education status—new GenEd, old GenEd, transfer of most GenEd credits—and convening groups of assessors to read a stratified random sample of these papers on one full day in July. We will look at the same General Education outcomes measured in earlier assessments (Written Communication, Research Fluency, Critical/Creative Thinking), using rubrics modified according to what we learned in our open debriefing sessions last fall. The same people who led last summer's groups—Becky Caouette, Elisa Miller, and Mikaila Arthur—have agreed to lead this summer's, and I plan to ask all those who participated last summer to participate this time, with perhaps a few others. Ron Pitt is supporting the project with honoraria for those who participate (\$250 for group members, \$300 for leaders) and with the funds for me to pay a student worker to handle all the copying, scanning, etc., we will need. I will have the data by the end of the summer.

Also, Julie Urda has continued to collect FYS artifacts for future use.

Maureen Reddy

Writing in the Discipline

A conversation, joint with the Writing Board, about Writing in the Discipline is planned for the Fall 2016 semester.

Second Language Requirement

The proposal to include American Sign Language as way to meet the requirement was approved by COGE and the UCC and is now being implemented.

First Year Seminar

Julie Urda replaced Quenby Hughes as FYS Coordinator during the 2015-16 academic year. We offered 28 sections of FYS in Fall 2015 and 31 in Spring 2016. In each semester, we offered an FYS informational seminar to all FYS faculty. It included instruction on the purpose of FYS, resources available to FYS faculty and students, and time for FYS faculty to ask each other questions and compare notes. During the spring session, faculty expressed interest in attending workshops focused on specific FYS issues such as creating a research assignment, giving effective feedback, and introducing the process of writing. We will offer these plus another information session during the 2016-17 academic year. Finally, in an effort to encourage all first-year students to complete their first-year seminar within their first year, we proposed a new policy to place an FYS hold on registration accounts for students who have not completed an FYS within their first 30 credits. This proposal (appended) was approved by COGE and Council. It remains to be approved by CAPP and updated in the appropriate handbooks and other documents.¹

Course Approvals

Second Language – [ASL 101](#) and [ASL 102](#) – Elementary American Sign Language I and II

Connections – [ENGL 267](#) Books That Changed American Culture

Connections – [NURS 266](#) Health and Cultural Diversity

AQSR – [MATH 239](#) Contemporary Topics in Mathematics II

Thanks are due to the 2014-1015 members of COGE, listed in the table, for dedication to carefully considering proposals and for providing strong support for general education at Rhode Island College. We particularly thank Ezra Stieglitz, who is concluding his service, having faithfully represented the School of Education on COGE for many years.

General education course enrollments for [Fall](#) and [Spring](#) semesters are available at <http://www.ric.edu/faculty/organic/coge/>.

The [Advising Guide to General Education](#), designed for use at orientation, comprises a concise description of the program.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Magyar, Chair

¹ Julie Urda, May 10, 2016

COGE membership 2015-2016

Name	Department	Constituency	Term
Denise Guilbault	Music, Theater, and Dance	Arts	2015-2017
David Espinosa	History	History	2014-2016
Olga Juzyn	Modern Languages	Language	2014-2016
Maureen Reddy	English	Literature	2015-2017
Stephanie Costa	Mathematics	Mathematics	2014-2016
James Magyar, Chair	Physical Science	Natural Science	2014-2016
Marta Laupa	Psychology	Social and Behavioral Science	2015-2016
Tish Brennan	Reference	Adams Library	2015-2017
Julie Urda	School of Management	School of Management	2015-2017
Ezra Stieglitz	Elementary Education	Feinstein School	2014-2016
Mary Byrd	Nursing	School of Nursing	2015-2017
Stefan Battle	BSW	School of Social Work	2015-2017
Michael Michaud	English	Chair of Writing Board (or designee)	NA
Becky Caouette	English	Director of Writing (or designee)	NA
Julie Urda	History	FYS Coordinator	NA
Ron Pitt	VPAA	VPAA or designee	NA
Earl Simson	Faculty of Arts and Sciences	Dean, FAS (or designee)	NA
Vacant	Student	Student	2015-2016

PROPOSAL TO PLACE A HOLD ON STUDENT ACCOUNTS IF THEY HAVE NOT MET THE FYS REQUIREMENT WITHIN 30 CREDITS

Julie Urda
Coordinator, First Year Seminar

James G. Magyar
Chair, COGE

April 14, 2016

PROPOSAL: Set the number of attempted credits in which students are to satisfy the First Year Seminar requirement.

Add Section 3.10.4 (c) to the College Handbook

(c) First Year Seminar

Students are required to complete First Year Seminar (FYS 100) within their first 30 attempted credits at Rhode Island College. Students who have not met this requirement will have an FYS hold placed on their registration, preventing them from registering for subsequent classes. Students who are enrolled for an upcoming FYS 100 by the FYS Coordinator will have the hold removed by the FYS Coordinator.

Rationale: The purpose of FYS is to help former high school students transition into college students. As such, it is crucial that they complete it in their first year, i.e., within their first 30 credits, at RIC. Using probation, such as that used by the FYW program, will not work for FYS because it allows students to continue to register for courses at a reduced number of credits. The FYS proposal will flag students attempting to enter their second year having not completed FYS and not allow them to register for any other courses until they have received necessary advising and/or counseling and have either registered for or proven completion of FYS.