

UCC COGE report 11/20/2020

COGE Minutes from 11/6/2020 meeting. See below

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Minutes

November Report:

COGE has been pursuing the agenda laid out in the October report; we continue to make progress and, for now, stay on schedule. Our current activities:

1. RIC General Education Website upgrade, 90%

With Karen Rubino's help, Jim Magyar's website has been migrated into the RIC General Education website. We are about 90% complete.

2. Since the last COGE report to the UCC, the chair of COGE discovered a grant opportunity (offered by the Teagle Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities) for the revitalization of the General Education through a parallel effort to revitalize the humanities via a "transformative texts" initiative. After consulting with COGE, the Dean, and the Provost, it was agreed that COGE would initiate a request to be invited to submit a grant proposal. <http://www.teaglefoundation.org/Call-for-Proposals/RFPs/Cornerstone-Learning-for-Living>. Within days, the two co-pis --J. Zornado and Glenn Rawson--will submit a 3-5 page "concept paper" to Teagle to indicate interest in their grant, in the hopes of being invited to submit a full grant proposal. Initial letter of interest deadline 12/1/2020. Key stake holders on campus have been canvassed for support and added their names to the letter.
3. COGE is completing a complete, revised set of Learning Outcomes Rubrics for all eleven of our current program's learning outcomes. We will use what I am calling "the URI model" of assessment, and hope to pilot a few courses in January, *and attempt to assess all eleven outcomes in all General Education courses in May, 2021.*
4. Faculty Survey of General Education. We have a draft survey in process and hope to deploy it in December.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Zornado
Chair, COGE
Professor of English

COGE 11/6/2020

J. Wu, D. Gill, J. Zornado, M. Michaud, E. Simson, J. Dagle, S. Pearlmutter, K. Almeida, K. Garabedian, D. Espinoza, M. Baker, S. Oliveira (for Modern Languages), S. Costa, T. Ender

Excused:

S. Brown (for FYS), W. Martin, C. Falangola, J. Capece, B. Caouette

The meeting began on Zoom at 12:32.

Meeting Recording:

https://ricollege.zoom.us/rec/share/l2DNBj9uOTJwJHxiCSjltg4SKOLC9mxzBXv2Gh09eVh_uOqBy60A-RSm2D-I9NO.jA2WLVryyw_qLLqs

Access Passcode: U144F9S.

The Chair shared the meeting agenda and discussed the Teagle Foundation grant opportunity for revising General Education programs around “transformative texts” from the Humanities. <http://www.teaglefoundation.org/Call-for-Proposals/RFPs/Cornerstone-Learning-for-Living>. Such a grant would fund the costs of revising General Education while without it how to make any substantial progress in revising Gen Ed seems impossible given the current financial crisis. The question: should COGE submit a 3-5 page “concept paper” to Teagle to indicate interest in their grant, in the hopes of being invited to submit a full grant proposal? Deadline 12/4/2020. In the end, E. Simson recommended that we submit the letter as a way of keeping our options open going forward.

Discussion followed: S. Costa asked if such a direction would marginalize other fields, including math. Many of our students need a lot of remedial help and how ever we move forward, we need to think about who exactly our students are and the educational needs they bring with them to RIC. D. Espinoza emphasized the importance of students attaining a historical perspective. S. Oliveira spoke about RIC’s Latinx student population and the importance of language skills, both first and second. J. Dagle informed COGE that CCRI students are increasingly completing their second-language requirements at CCRI. J. Wu asked if General Education should be tailored more specifically to students’ majors, so, for example, should Business majors be required to take so much science? Discussion followed about the importance of taking a wide range of required courses, and that learning outcomes should be met by courses traditionally tasked with teaching them.

J. Zornado introduced the second agenda item: assessment of the current General Education program and discussion followed. Many faculty do not have a clear sense about General

Education, and whether it is meeting the needs of students, or not. Discussion followed. The Chair suggested that, based upon the last two COGE meetings, that we should take up the task of completing the assessment of our current Gen Ed program using a model employed by URI. A sub-committee will meet to move the assessment process forward.

Last, the discussion of the faculty survey followed as part of COGE's review of the current Gen Ed program. A sub-committee will meet to move forward on survey design and implementation.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Zornado

Addendum to the minutes: the RIC General Education website has been updated. Most of the information from Jim Magyar's COGE site has been moved to the RIC Gen Ed site.