

Rhode Island College
Annual Report of the Committee on General Education
May 14, 2021

Overview

The academic year began for COGE with a new committee chair, J. Zornado, and a new Provost at RIC who asked COGE to consider the best ways forward in reflecting on with the possibility of improving general education at the college.

Reflection Activities

- COGE met once a month from September to April –with supplemental discussion ongoing--in order to discuss areas of concern and interest, including issues related to the student transfer experience, the size of our General Education program, (currently at 49 credits for some students), the second language requirement, and RIC 100. How might General education be more effective, engage more departments in the program. While the Provost encouraged COGE to look for ways to re-imagine general education broadly speaking, the committee cautioned that more information was needed in order to facilitate COGE’s reflective process.
- COGE began with an email to faculty from the chair to please reflect on general education, the program’s learning outcomes, and faculty’s activities as gen ed instructors as a first step in beginning the process of reflection.
- As part of COGE’s effort to gather information the committee created a faculty survey of general education which was completed in January and a report is available here: <http://www.ric.edu/generaleducation/Documents/GenEd-Final-Survey-Results.pdf>
- COGE created a student survey of general education which was sent to students in April and it is ongoing.
- COGE submitted a grant letter of interest to the Teagle Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities for funds to support our general education initiative but was turned down
- With the help of Karen Rubino COGE updated the College’s General Education website

Writing in the Discipline

- Mike Michaud presented a WID visibility update to COGE in October, 2020. COGE discussed possible ways for the college to support WID, but the future of WID remains under discussion.

Assessment of Gen Ed

- From the beginning of the academic year COGE discussed the need for assessment of the program that is both useful and sustainable. At the end of the fall term COGE piloted a small assessment of English 12x as a test of a direct faculty assessment of learning outcomes from their own classes. COGE will work with the college's new Assessment Coordinator in the hopes of developing and piloting an assessment of general education in the next academic year. Work is ongoing.

AAC&U

- The Provost asked the chair of COGE help develop an application to the AAC&U's summer institute on General Education and the application was accepted. Representatives from COGE, the Administration, and the college's Assessment Coordinator will attend the AAC&U Institute on General Education June 8-11.

CCRI and URI

- The chair of COGE attended a meeting of the general education faculty from CCRI and URI in February, 2021. In April, CCRI joined a COGE meeting to discuss their general education revisions.

COGE Business

- Anthropology 104--course name and course description change: Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology
- History 267: course name and course description change: Personal Memories of World Wars

Bachelor of Professional Studies

- COGE spent March discussing the merits, possibilities, and potential problems with a newly proposed Bachelor of General Studies. COGE offered considerable feedback and needed supplemental discussion in order

EEP

- H. Shadoian proposing to update the catalog to reflect that EEP courses meet RIC general education requirements. The proposals passed and were forwarded to Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

Next Year:

- COGE will continue to gather data related to the activities of faculty who teach general education as a way to reflect on the program's effectiveness at meeting its stated learning outcomes. Also, COGE next year, following the UCC manual:
 - All COGE meetings shall be open . . . to faculty, staff, and students.
 - COGE will hold an annual meeting open to all faculty, staff, and students for the purpose of reporting on and discussing issues related to General Education.
 - COGE will work to organize, direct, and execute an assessment of General Education . . . "to include, but not be limited to, an assessment of the extent to which the goals and purposes of General Education are realized by the structure of the program, the content of the program, the schedule and timeliness of course

offerings, enrollments, the sequencing of courses, the administration of the program and its ancillary components as well as faculty, staff and student satisfaction with the program.”

COGE membership 2020-21

J. Zornado, (chair) English

S. Costa, Math

M. Reddy, FYS Coordinator

B. Caouette, Director of Writing

W. Martin, Art

E. Miller, History

S. Olivera, Modern Languages

K. Almeida, Physical Science

Mary Baker, Anthropology

D. Gill, Reference

J. Wu, Business

T. Ender, Ed Studies

S. Ross, Nursing

J. Capece, BSW

M. Michaud, WID

S. Pearlmuter, Provost's designee

E. Simson, Dean, FAS

K. Garabedian, student representative