Milestones in General Education Reform


May, 2005: General Education Task Force final reported released to College community.

Fall, 2005: Seven open fora are held to discuss and collect feedback regarding General Education Task Force report.

November 28, 2006 Faculty Meeting: General Education Program goals as developed by the General Education Committee are discussed.

November 27, 2007 Faculty Meeting: By formal vote, the Faculty approve by an over 4-to-1 margin (71 to 15) a second language competency requirement for all SNC students.¹

March 25, 2008 Faculty Meeting: In an informal straw poll, the Faculty favor by an over 4-to-1 margin (54 to 13) adopting a new set of goals as a basis for a new General Education Program in place of the continued use of the current Program goals. In the same informal poll, the Faculty favor by an almost 3-to-1 margin (50 to 17) using the goals of the General Education Task Force, with or without modification.²

April 29, 2008 Faculty Meeting: By formal vote, the Faculty approve by a 12-to-1 margin (72 to 6) a modified set of goals for a new General Education Program.³

April 28, 2009 Faculty Meeting: By formal vote, the Faculty approve by a 5-to-1 margin (68 to 12) consolidation of certain GS 10 and 11 courses with GS 12.⁴

Spring, 2009 - Fall, 2009: General Education reform discussion between Associate Academic Dean and seventeen disciplines (mostly through meetings, some via e-mail)⁵ + Gen. Ed. Task Force. Discussion between Associate Dean of Natural Sciences and Chemistry, Biology and Physics. Substantive changes made to the following areas and modules based on Faculty feedback at Divisional and Faculty meetings: Philosophical Foundations, Theological Foundations, Individual and Society, Beyond Borders, Difference and Diversity, and Quantitative Reasoning.

2009-2010: General Education reform discussed in four Faculty Meetings (Oct. 27, Dec. 1, Feb. 16, Mar. 23). Faculty indicate by two straw polls at the March 23, 2010 meeting that they wish to a) retain two separate areas 'Individual and Society' and 'Voices and Identities' (renamed

¹ 71 in favor, 13 opposed and 2 abstentions.
² Both of these statements are based on the following results of a straw poll taken on 3/25/08: Adopt the Goals of the General Education Task Force as stated: 3; Adopt the Goals of the General Education Task Force with modification: 47; Retain the current goals of the General Education Program as stated: 2; Retain the current goals of the General Education Program with modification: 11; Craft a new/revised set of goals: 4.
³ 72 in favor, 4 opposed and 2 abstentions.
⁴ 68 in favor, 9 opposed and 3 abstentions.
’Difference and Diversity’ based also on Faculty feedback) in the proposed outline, and b) have a ’Quantitative Reasoning’ course requirement in the revised program.

Spring 2010. Faculty approves, by over a 2-to-1 margin (50 to 20, 8 abstain), the outline for a new Core Program that will eventually replace the current Gen. Ed. Program.

Fall 2010: Faculty sub-committees form to finalize drafts of area/module descriptions and craft learning outcomes. Gen. Ed. Committee finalizes draft document and sends it to the Faculty for discussion in Division meeting and the last Faculty meeting of Fall 2010.

Spring 2011: The Gen. Ed. Committee discusses feedback from Faculty and makes revisions to the descriptions and learning outcomes. Vote on the descriptions expected in the March meeting. Vote on the first year common experience expected in the final April Faculty meeting.

March 2011: Gen. Ed. Committee moves that the revised descriptions and learning outcomes be adopted in the new Core Program. The motion fails 41 to 25 (minutes pending).

April 2011: The College conducts a survey aimed at gathering opinions and feedback on the Core Program proposal from the Faculty at large.