

# Core Curriculum and General Education Committee Update



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UNIVERSITY

Senate, June 2016

# CCGEC Charge & Membership

**The Core Curriculum and General Education Committee shall consist of the Provost or designee as chair, and faculty membership, to be distributed as follows:**

**There shall be seven representatives from the core areas: 1) composition or literature 2) fine arts 3) history 4) mathematics 5) natural sciences 6) philosophy 7) social sciences; and one from each of the remaining colleges or schools, excluding the Graduate School; and one from the University Libraries. The Director of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment shall serve as a non-voting, ex officio member of the committee.**

**The committee shall have the responsibilities of recommending goals for general education and the Core Curriculum and monitoring the University's effectiveness in fostering student achievement of these goals. Toward this end, the committee shall oversee the assessment of student learning in the Core, including the evaluation of courses, and may recommend to the University Senate changes in the Core Curriculum and general education.**



# 2015-2016 CCGEC Membership

**Constance Relihan**, APUS, continuing (Chair)

**Megan Rodgers Good**, Director of Academic Assessment – Continuing, non-voting (for Director, OIRA)

**Cate Giustino**, History, CLA

**Cynthia Bowling**, Political Science, CLA

**Michel Smith**, Mathematics; COSAM

**Susana Morris**, English, CLA

**Chuck Savrda**, Geological Sciences, COSAM

**Mark DeGoti**, Music, CLA

**James Shelley**, Philosophy, CLA

**Julie Howe**, Agriculture

**Robert Gitzen**, SFWS

**Cecilia Champion**, HCOB

**Christian Dagg**, CADC

**Stuart Wentworth**, SGCOE

**Yee Ming Lee**, CHS

**Toni Carter**, Library

**Annette Kluck**, Education

**Eleanor (Missy) Josephson**, CVM

**Edward Campbell**, Nursing

**Angela Calderon**, HSOP

*Also typically present as non-voting attendees:*

**Lindsey St. Hilaire**, SGA

**Melissa Baumann**, Asst. Prov for Undergrad Studies/ Dir. of Honors College

# 2015-2016 CCGEC Activities

- ❖ 12 full committee meetings
- ❖ 10 focus groups on assessment
- ❖ 3 individuals sent to the AAC&U Conference:  
“General Education and Assessment: From My  
Work to Our Work” (New Orleans, 2/18-2/20)
- ❖ 3 meetings/web presentations from national  
providers of assessment instruments

# Assessment: “Year of Reflection”

# Main Questions & Methods

- ❖ What's working well in terms of Core Assessment?
- ❖ Is there room for improvement?
- ❖ 10 focus groups
- ❖ Randomly selected faculty, students, and administrators
- ❖ Focus groups facilitated by Office of Academic Assessment

# Conclusions

- ❖ Varying levels of awareness of Core SLOs
- ❖ Lack of confidence in current assessment methods
- ❖ Faculty understand the need to gather assessment data
- ❖ Current data not optimal for formative or summative assessment purposes
- ❖ Frustration over amount of effort required for core faculty

# Committee Response to Focus Groups

- ❖ After considerable discussion, the CCGEC determined to pilot administering assessment instruments to students in their final semester.
- ❖ After reviewing options, the HEIghten Suite of assessments was selected for piloting in Summer 2016 (Critical Thinking, Quantitative Literacy, Writing)
- ❖ A Workgroup was established to meet weekly during Summer 2016 to accomplish this goal and recommend next steps
- ❖ Next steps may include: developing in-house assessment tools for designated SLOs, proposing revisions to existing SLOs, recommending no change to assessment practices for designated SLOs.



# Summer Pilot Workgroup

Constance Relihan, APUS (Chair)

Megan Rodgers Good, Director of Academic Assessment

Melissa Baumann, Asst. Prov for Undergrad Studies/ Dir. of Honors College

Katie Boyd, Assessment Specialist, Office of Academic Assessment

Toni Carter, Library

Jack Feminella, Associate Dean, COSAM

Robert Gitzen, SFWS

Charles Israel, Associate Dean, CLA

Eleanor (Missy) Josephson, CVM

Matt Kearley, Biological Sciences

Jacqueline Keck, SGA

Menley McPhaul, Undergraduate Student

Chuck Savrda, Geological Sciences, COSAM

James Shelley, Philosophy, CLA

Michel Smith, Mathematics, COSAM

Chad Wickman, English Composition, CLA

# New Course Options



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- ❖ **COUN 2000: Living and Communicating in a Diverse Society**  
*Social Science; SLO 9 (Diversity)*
- ❖ **PHIL 1110: Ethical and Conceptual Foundations of Science**  
*Humanities; SLO 2 (Critical Reading); SLO 3 (Argument)*
- ❖ **CSES 1010: Soils and Life**
- ❖ **CSES 1020: Crops and Life**  
*Science sequence; SLO 10 (Science)*
- ❖ *Note: DE versions of courses meeting all core requirements have been approved.*

# Anticipated 2016-2017 Activities

- ❖ **Propose revisions to charge and CCGEC membership**
- ❖ **Propose revisions to SLOs as a result of pilot assessment program**
- ❖ **Work with specific content areas to develop revised assessment procedures**
- ❖ **Expand/revise Summer 2016 assessment pilot**
- ❖ **Consider any new core course proposals**

Thank you for all that you do  
to promote our students' general education.