General Education Redesign update for Nov 8, 2019

Five points to cover from the last two weeks:

1. We continue to work with the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) we’ve developed a new picture to communicate them that removes the numbers, as they appear to be rankings, and shows the relationship of them as a circle centered on the student experience.

This attempts to communicate a student centered focus on these outcomes. We remain open to revisions to the language of the SLOs to get them where they need to be. We’ve also begun talking about which areas of the faculty would be best suited to develop guidelines and
resources for certifying departmental courses for general education credit.

2. We’ve been looking at the possible combined model for the curriculum and particularly at that first year. ASL and English need clear pathways and placement structure to ensure students gain language use (grammar, syntax, etc.) first and then move to composition and other broader skills that then allow for a fuller learning of bilingual skills such as when to switch between languages and how to use languages effectively.

3. We’ve begun to develop language for a mission statement for the new curriculum. The current GSR mission statement applies to that curriculum so there’s a need to develop a new mission statement. This should be aligned with the University mission statement but also communicate the value of a liberal arts education.

4. We continue to make some progress toward a name for the new curriculum, but we haven’t decided yet. We need something that is exciting but also clear as to the significance and centrality of general education in the curriculum.

5. We’re working to get names from the departments on representatives for the ad hoc Council on General Education. This group will carry on the work through next spring to develop details and proposals to flesh out the curriculum. We want to continue an open process through the Spring as well, but need to form a decision making body to move forward.