

Discussion Points Raised
General Education Town Hall
March 15, 2010
Faculty Dining Room, 12-1:30pm

1. Is a smaller General Education (GE) curriculum beneficial?
 - A smaller GE is beneficial for many professional programs and large majors but the proposed curriculum still presents challenges for programs with sequential requirements and for transfer students entering without associate degrees
 - There is a need to streamline requirements across the curriculum
2. Should a cultural diversity course be included in required foundation courses?
 - Race relations is still an issue that the curriculum should address
 - Students report that the course is beneficial
3. Should Speech 101 be included in required foundation courses?
 - Students need to develop oral communication skills
 - A stand-alone course is needed in place of the development of oral expression skills across courses in the curriculum
4. Are the liberal arts being subsumed by the needs of the professional programs?
 - The professional programs are part of York
 - A strong GE is needed to prepare students to enter professional programs and liberal arts majors
5. What does interdisciplinary mean?
 - An interdisciplinary course requires more than including faculty from different disciplines
 - Identification of faculty to teach interdisciplinary courses could have an impact on department staffing of non-GE courses
 - Pedagogy is just as important as content for teaching interdisciplinary courses
 - Designing five different types of interdisciplinary courses may be too ambitious
6. Why is a required freshman seminar needed?
 - A freshman seminar has been demonstrated to be valuable at many other institutions
 - Freshman seminar should include more than the development of college-readiness skills
7. What resources will be needed and will they be made available?
 - Faculty development will be needed for the development and staffing of interdisciplinary courses
 - Different models of delivery of interdisciplinary courses exist
8. Why is an integrative approach to GE important?
 - We must guard against parochialism in considering a new curriculum
 - A tension exists between academic specialization and the development of liberal arts knowledge and abilities across the curriculum
 - An integrative model of GE supports better assessment of whether or not curricular goals are being achieved, and other institutions have an integrative GE curriculum
9. What are the WAC requirements in the proposed GE?
 - The proposed GE includes replacing WRIT 301/302/303 with WRIT 300 to make course selection more feasible for students
 - The proposed GE includes a two-semester English Composition sequence that is in-line with most other institutions
 - A spiral curriculum approach to writing skill development is maintained; the curriculum includes lower division Writing Enhanced and Writing Intensive courses