

## **Curriculum Committee Resolution 17/18-22**

May 2, 2018

To: St. Olaf Faculty

From: Curriculum Committee

Re: Continuation of the Task Force For General Education Curriculum Review

### **RESOLUTION:**

#### **Charge:**

Resolved, that the Task Force For General Education Curriculum Review (the “Task Force”, below), initially established through CC Resolution 16/17-03 on October 13, 2016, be continued through the 2018/19 academic year and that the Task Force be further charged to:

1. develop a guiding document relating to the overall goals of the General Education Curriculum at St. Olaf College;
2. propose to the Curriculum Committee a general education curriculum consistent with these goals by the Spring of 2019;
3. suggest how the full faculty deliberate and move to implement it

#### **Membership:**

The membership of the 2018-2019 GE Task Force will be 7-10 members consisting of 5-8 faculty members and 2 students. The Task Force will include some members of the 2017-2018 GE Task Force for the sake of continuity. The remaining slots for faculty members will be filled through appointments by the Curriculum Committee. Student members will be appointed by the president, vice president, and curriculum senator of the Student Government Association. Additionally, the Provost or her designee shall be a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Task Force. The Curriculum Committee will appoint one faculty member as Task Force convener. Task Force meetings will normally take place on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-5:00.

In the summer of 2018, a transition team will draft a mission/narrative for St Olaf’s General Education, identify key issues in general education reform, and develop logistics for how all of this might best be pursued. The transition team, appointed by the Curriculum Committee, will seek to include at least one individual who was a member of the GE Task Force during the 2017-2018 academic year, at least one individual who is a member of the To Include is To Excel Advisory Group, at least one individual who was a member of the Curriculum Committee during the 2017-2018 academic year, at least one student, and at least one and no more than two additional members. The transition team will inform the Curriculum Committee and the 2018-2019 GE Task Force in September 2018 of their recommendations. The Curriculum Committee will report on those recommendations at the October 2018 faculty meeting.

The Task Force will invite others to participate in its activities; for example, the Registrar, additional faculty members (especially pre-tenure and non-tenure-track faculty), students, and other stakeholders. It should consider creating work groups that include these people and others. The Task Force will consult broadly within and beyond the St. Olaf community. It will regularly communicate with the Curriculum Committee and Provost's office.

## **BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE:**

After a great deal of work gathering and considering information from many sources (e.g., conversations with students, departments, and programs, research into general education at other institutions, forums, etc.), the Task Force has found that more time is needed before any models at all can be presented. Unforeseen external matters have left the Task Force with less time than members expected to do its work and has made it difficult to win the attention needed among students and faculty to make any sound recommendations.

The description of any proposed general education curriculum will be accompanied by an analysis that includes what the Task Force has determined to be the pros and cons, including the ways in which the curriculum meets the specific broad outcomes of the guidelines, a clear description of its benefits, and implementation challenges.

Throughout the 2018/2019 academic year and with continued discussion with the faculty as a whole, the Task Force will work to continue to refine the general guidelines and working models, with the goal of revising, rejecting, combining, or replacing these working models in order to provide a final slate of proposed models for a new General Education curriculum for the Curriculum Committee to present to the full faculty for consideration in the Spring of 2019.

The Curriculum Committee will continue to oversee the work of the Task Force and will determine the structure for further deliberation to work out details of the preferred model(s) after the 2018/2019 academic year. The Task Force will be responsive to concerns raised by the Collective for Change on the Hill, work on inclusivity, the work of To Include is to Excel, and the findings of the SRAP process as they are relevant. The work of the transition team and the 2018-2019 Task Force will be informed by the 2017-2018 Task Force Report. Continued input will lead to a final future resolution or set of resolutions that will recommend to the faculty a new General Education curriculum.