

## **Curriculum Committee Resolution 18/19-19**

May 1, 2019

To: St. Olaf Faculty

From: Curriculum Committee

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

### **RESOLUTION:**

#### **Charge:**

Resolved, that the General Education Task Force (the "Task Force"), initially established through CC Resolution 16/17-03 on October 13, 2016, be continued through the conclusion of the 2019-2020 academic year, and that the Task Force be further charged to:

1. continue to gather input from faculty, staff, and students on possible changes to St. Olaf's general education curriculum;
2. continue to guide the faculty's deliberations on possible changes to St. Olaf's general education curriculum;
3. continue to move toward the goal of introducing a revised general education curriculum for a vote or series of votes at one or more faculty meetings during the Fall Semester of 2019;
4. begin addressing the implementation of a revised general education curriculum.

#### **Membership:**

The membership of the 2019-2020 GE Task Force will be 7-10 members consisting of 6-8 faculty members and 2 students. For the sake of continuity, invitations to continue on the Task Force will be made to the members of the 2018-2019 GE Task Force. Additional or replacement faculty members will be drawn from the Summer GE Transition Team of 2018 and the three ad hoc groups seated during the 2018-2019 academic year. 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 Task Force will appoint one of its faculty members as Task Force convener. Task Force meetings will normally take place on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-5:00.

In the summer of 2019, a Summer GE Transition Team will assess the state of the college's deliberations on GE revision, develop a general plan for the work of the 2019-2020 GE Task Force and the deliberations of the full faculty during the 2019-2020 academic year (with particular attention to the Fall Semester of 2019), and begin discussing issues related to implementation. The Summer GE Transition Team of 2019 will seek to include two individuals who were members of the GE Task Force during the previous (2018-2019) academic year, one individual who was a

member of the Curriculum Committee during the previous (2018-2019) academic year, one student, and one individual from the To Include is to Excel Advisory Group (2018-2019 or 2019-2020). The Summer GE Transition Team will inform the Curriculum Committee and the 2019-2020 GE Task Force in September 2019 of their recommendations.

The Task Force will consult broadly within and beyond the St. Olaf community, and it will invite faculty (including pre-tenure and non-tenure-track faculty), students, staff, and other stakeholders to participate in its activities. It will regularly communicate with the Curriculum Committee and Provost's office, as well as with the faculty as a whole.

## **BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE:**

The Curriculum Committee has been impressed by the work of the 2018-2019 GE Task Force in guiding the faculty and the wider St. Olaf community through an open and wide-ranging discussion of general education and a series of meaningful steps in the development of a revised general education curriculum. In order to ensure an orderly continuation of this process through the summer and 2019-2020 academic year, the CC believes that it is in the best interest of the college to ensure significant continuity from 2018-2019 to 2019-2020 in the membership of the Task Force.

Important steps in general education revision undertaken during the current academic year have included discussions at regular faculty meetings and supplementary faculty meetings called for the specific purpose of facilitating deliberation on general education; the collection and consideration of feedback delivered orally and in written and electronic form; the development of and a successful faculty vote in support of GE Guiding Principles (CC Resolution 18/19-02, October 4, 2018; 87% yes, 11% no, 2% abstain); the development of and a successful faculty vote in support of three OLE questions that articulate the college's ambitions for general education (CC Resolution 18/19-06, December 6, 2018; 85% yes, 11% no, 2% abstain); the creation of three ad hoc groups that were charged with considering various ways in which a St. Olaf general education curriculum might help students answer these questions; the creation of student focus groups and a student survey on general education at the college; the creation of a Staff Consulting Group; discussions on general education with the Board of Regents (October 11, 2018 and May 2, 2019); and, in the Spring Semester of 2019, the introduction of a draft of a core curriculum ("the Ole Core") and subsequent modifications to this draft. At the Faculty Meeting on April 11, 2019, the faculty voted to approve a motion from the floor supporting the work and process of the GE Task Force (78% yes, 11% no, and 11% abstain).

The resolution above will allow this important work to continue during the summer of 2019 and up through the conclusion of the 2019-2020 academic year, with the goal of the introduction of a resolution or series of resolutions on a revised general education curriculum in the Fall Semester of 2019. In the event that the St. Olaf faculty votes to adopt a revised general education curriculum, the focus of the GE Task Force will shift from the development of this curriculum to its implementation.