

TO: Members of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Darrell Mullins, President, Faculty Senate

RE: General Education Assessment

DATE: September 8, 2006

Colleagues:

Based on feedback from our recent Middle States evaluation process, Interim Provost Jones has charged the University Academic Assessment committee to conduct a pilot program focusing on the assessment of our current general education program. The Provost is seeking Senate endorsement of this program. Initially the focus will be the degree to which the following Student Learning Outcomes are met by our general education program:

Written Communication
Critical Analysis and Reasoning
Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning

Data will be collected in English, History, Math and Science courses. Chairs of targeted departments will oversee the collection of data. The plan is to use data that will be collected as a normal part of teaching a course. An evaluation team will be appointed and trained in order to establish consistency across departments in collecting and interpreting data. Departments can request resources to assist with the process.

Once the initial process is complete, it will be modified (if necessary) based on feedback from those involved. The process will then be repeated to focus on the remaining Student Learning Outcomes.

The information above is my best attempt to provide a brief summary of a very detailed effort. Interim Provost Jones will be available to answer questions at our Senate meeting on 9/12.