

Task Force on Review of All-College Distribution Requirements

May 9, 2016, 3:30-4:30pm, Diamond 146

Attending: Paul Greenwood, Julie Millard, Bevin Engman, Stephanie Taylor, Chris Soto, David Angelini, Keith Peterson, Laura Saltz, Lori Kletzer, Margaret McFadden (minute taker)

Summary

We discussed possible questions to ask the faculty centered around responding to our survey results. We also discussed the preliminary analysis of the first survey question so we would understand the coming presentation of the survey data.

We focused on questions provided by one committee member, in particular: Question 1 is “What is our general consensus about the most important student outcomes? That is, what should a student learn at Colby?” Question 2 is “The survey asked about academic and non-academic values, skills, and content knowledge. Should we consider all these things when reviewing the current system of distribution requirements? Or should we restrict ourselves to a narrower subset of these things? Why?”

After some mulling of this, we agree that values/skills/knowledge are three questions and academic/nonacademic is a fourth question. Discussions about these points can be useful in showing varied expectations and relationships of those expectations to distribution requirements. Maybe if we start positive we could later turn to questions about what is/isn't working without the faculty concentrating on just what hasn't worked.

Implicit in conducting a survey is the expectation that something has to happen with the results. How do we analyze these results so as to present them to the faculty? We agree that we need to really dig into the survey data, to capture the ways that the same point might have been phrased slightly differently by different respondents. We all agree that we will work in teams on parts of this task.

Assignments as follows:

- Chris and Steph are Team Data, getting the raw data to the rest of us and then accepting our summarized analyses.
- Skills Team: Valerie, Dave, Julie
- Knowledge Team: Raffael, Laura, Lori
- Values Team: Bevin, Keith, Margaret
- Retreat Organization Team: Paul