

Task Force on Review of All-College Distribution Requirements

January 18, 2018, 11:00am-12:00, Eustis 205

Attending: Laura Saltz, Bevin Engman, Stephanie Taylor, Keith Peterson, Dave Angelini, Alicia Ellis, Russ Johnson, Raffael Scheck,

Summary

Margaret, Russ, and Alicia will attend the AAC&U conference on general education requirements held in mid-February in Philadelphia.

We discussed feedback from the recent discussion on requirements at the December Chairs and Directors meeting. Language study was seen by many as central to a (globally focused) liberal arts education. There is a misconception by some that MOIs mean that content knowledge would be completely eliminated. We need to clarify that content and methods are intertwined, that the concept of MOIs is meant to be flexible, inclusive. A number of chairs feel that multiple MOIs are present in their disciplines and, potentially, in individual courses, even at the 100 level. What would it mean to have multiple modes in a single course, especially when we're trying to construct a system of requirements? The "common understandings" model, which has been very successful in the writing program, feels like a very promising approach for MOIs. Many chairs feel that the real power of the MOI approach is the way it cuts across the disciplines. We should embrace this explicitly, make this feature even more visible, and encourage the students to embrace it as well.

During the spring semester we will conduct a survey of faculty members asking:

What do you want non-majors to get out of your courses?

What do you want your majors to get from other departments?

We will also schedule meetings with departments and programs.