

Task Force on Review of All-College Distribution Requirements

April 19, 2018, 4:00-5:00pm, Eustis 406

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

Summary

We reviewed recent meetings that small delegations from the task force have held with departments, programs, and committees.

The **Committee on Diversity and Inclusion** voiced concerns about a potential watering down or elimination of the U and I requirements. The committee is skeptical of the MOI and CC approach. At least, the MOI would need to be more “robust” – perhaps including intercultural sensitivity as a mode. The committee felt that the current distribution requirements are fine and that a new set focused on MOI would be hard to communicate to new students.

The **Education** program wants students to learn how systems operate and how they affect experience. We should think about how that might work as a mode of inquiry. The department stressed cultural competency and critical consciousness. All their courses emphasize critical thinking. They felt that we have a too conservative education design. The department sees civic engagement as an activator of all the desirable capacities discussed before. But implementing these aspects is often not considered academic.

The **Spanish** department pointed out that they teach sensitivity for different cultures and a cultural sense and appreciation. The department Chair proposed a different language requirement: two courses above current standing – no matter where a student is. This would obviously be in the interest of the Spanish department, which teaches a large number of basic language courses but does not have many students in higher-level courses.