

Core Curriculum Appraisal Task Force  
Mid-year Report  
20 December 2022

Submitted by Fletcher Linder

**Members:** Fletcher Linder (chair), Bethany Blackstone, Quentin Alexander, Christine May (Faculty Senate), John Burgess, Allison Fagan, Kane Nashimoto

**Charge:** Goal 1, Objective 4 of the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan identifies renewal of the General Education Program (GEP) as a high priority. With the GEP Academic Program Review (APR) report and response in hand, the Provost Leadership Team affirms its commitment to renewal and to providing “all undergraduates with a high-quality liberal education program.”

To these ends, the Provost has appointed the Core Curriculum Appraisal Task Force to lead the division through a process of consultation, discernment, and innovation. This task force will:

1. Use the 2021-22 APR to develop recommendations for revising and renewing JMU’s core curriculum to better incorporate contemporary expectations for the liberal arts and sciences.
2. Identify and work with an external consultant to facilitate campus engagement and help us assess the university’s curricular needs.
3. Advise academic leaders on expanded communication and messaging about the General Education program’s role in JMU’s unique blend of liberal arts, research, and professional education.
4. Analyze staffing levels needed to meet SCHEV base adequacy guidelines, with the possibility of strategic growth in full-time instructional positions to support the instructional needs of our core curriculum.

**Meetings Held:**

Oct 3	First meeting; receive charge from the provost
Nov 11	Monthly meeting; with Meg Mulrooney (GenEd)
Nov 29	Ad hoc meeting with Project Paradigm
Dec 1	Monthly meeting

**Scope of Work, Progress, Plans going Forward:**

Review APR documents

Completed by team members before Nov 11. Will refer to these as needed.

### Establish formal connections with the General Education Council

On Oct 4, the TF chair met with Claire Lyons, faculty chair of the General Education Council. The TF chair and GEC chair agreed to have TF members attend GEC meetings to enhance cooperation and communication. One TF member serves on the GEC as a representative from Faculty Senate. An additional TF member will attend GEC to help reduce confusion of roles for the TF member who serves on Faculty Senate and GEC.

On Nov 11, committee met with Meg Mulrooney, the person who oversees GenEd. The TF benefitted from this review of the program and GenEd nationally.

Four TF members will join the GEC chair (and perhaps others on the GEC) at an AACU conference in February, one which focuses on General Education. TF members will attend a pre-conference workshop on GenEd reform.

### Establish formal connections with Faculty Senate

One TF member is a representative of Faculty Senate. The TF chair met with Faculty Senate Speaker, Kathy Ott Walter, on Dec 1. Reviewed charge, process, and agreed to continue representation as is.

### Meet with College Leadership Teams

The TF chair and Bethany Blackstone met with CHBS on Dec 5. All other colleges have been scheduled for Jan/Feb 2023. Discussion focuses on charge and process and asks for suggestions.

### Review existing C&I process for adequacy

Meg Mulrooney provided existing processes. TF is reviewing to see if the processes are adequate and if they align with current C&I practice.

### Review the GenEd renewal timeline noted in the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan

The TF has reviewed the timeline and is discussing possible adjustments.

### Draft first communication with faculty, staff, students to get feedback on how GenEd fits into JMU's current identity and mission

TF is drafting for communication in Feb 2023.

### Build website for Communication and Education

A shell has been created. The TF chair and website designer will meet in Jan 2023 for next steps.

### Specify requirements for any curriculum

TF is gathering SACSCOC, SCHEV, and other requirements. These will be posted on the website.

### Collect suggestions for external consultants

TF is first gathering suggestions from the GEC chair and Meg Mulrooney.

### Pick up pace of work

The TF will meeting every two weeks beginning in Jan 2023.