

The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at Meeting #175 on May 2, 2011:

MOTION:

The UAF Faculty Senate moves to approve the following set of objectives and student learning outcomes for the purpose of developing the next general education curriculum and assessment system for all undergraduate students seeking BA, BS, AA, and AS degrees.

General education objectives and learning outcomes for the undergraduate students seeking BA, BS, AA, and AS degrees at the University of Alaska Fairbanks:

1. **Build Knowledge of Human Institutions, Socio-Cultural Processes, and the Physical and Natural World** through study of the natural and social sciences, technologies, mathematics, humanities, histories, languages and the arts.
 - Competence will be demonstrated for the foundational information in each subject area, its context and significance, and the methods used in advancing each.
2. **Develop Intellectual and Practical Skills across the curriculum**, including inquiry and analysis, critical and creative thinking, problem solving, written and oral communication, information literacy, technological competence, and collaborative learning.
 - Proficiency will be demonstrated across the curriculum through critical analysis of proffered information, well-reasoned solutions to problems or inferences drawn from evidence, effective written and oral communication, and satisfactory outcomes of group projects.
3. **Acquire Tools for Effective Civic Engagement** in local through global contexts, including ethical reasoning, intercultural competence, and knowledge of Alaska and Alaskan issues.
 - Facility will be demonstrated through analyses of issues including dimensions of ethics, human and cultural diversity, conflicts and interdependencies, globalization, and sustainability.
4. **Integrate and Apply Learning**, including synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general and specialized studies, adapting them to new settings, questions, and responsibilities, and forming a foundation for lifelong learning.
 - Preparation will be demonstrated through production of a creative or scholarly product that requires broad knowledge, appropriate technical proficiency, information collection, synthesis, interpretation, presentation, and reflection.

EFFECTIVE: Fall 2011

RATIONALE:

The American Association of Colleges and Universities (AACU) has assembled a framework of learning outcomes entitled “Liberal Education and America’s Promise” (LEAP). This framework recognizes four broad goals of general education: increase disciplinary knowledge, develop thinking skills, connect academic work with societal issues, and prepare for lifelong learning.

The General Education Revitalization Committee (GERC) and its predecessor, the Core Revitalization and Assessment Group (CRAG), both found support within themselves and among the broader UAF faculty for revision of the UAF Core Curriculum to incorporate a LEAP-based set of learning outcomes. During 2011, the GERC circulated drafts for comment to academic deans, department chairs, curriculum councils, and faculty for comment; it also held two faculty forums to solicit feedback. The overwhelming thrust of the feedback has been supportive of the approach and direction of the working drafts. All of the feedback received has been carefully considered, and much of it has been incorporated into the proposed set of objectives and learning outcomes.

The overall result is a set of learning outcomes that reflects the near-consensus view of the GERC (9 Yea, 0 Nay, 1 Abstain, 1 absent). The challenge has been to set goals that are at once both general enough to not dictate strategy or tactics in achieving them, yet concrete enough that assessment efforts will be able to gain traction. The GERC proposes the following set of learning outcomes with three disclaimers. First, these learning outcomes do not necessarily correspond to courses; many are explicitly envisioned as being addressed across the entire curriculum. Second, the GERC remains divided about how best to advance student understanding of the increasingly pervasive role of technology in society as well as its societal consequences. Third, there should be significant continuity between the committees tasked with establishing the objectives and learning outcomes, the new general education curriculum, and the outcomes assessment.

Therefore the General Education Revitalization Committee, through the Curricular Affairs Committee, proposes

1. that the UAF Faculty Senate adopt the above objectives and learning outcomes as the basis on which to develop the next general education strategy for UAF and to develop assessment strategies for their achievement, and
2. that these objectives and learning outcomes be treated as a "living document" subject to revisions approved by the Faculty Senate or designated committees
3. that these objectives and learning outcomes will not replace the current objectives of the core curriculum until the process of developing a new general education curriculum and outcomes assessment is completed.



President, UAF Faculty Senate

2 May 2011

Date

APPROVAL:



Chancellor's Office

DATE: 2 May 2011

DISAPPROVED:

Chancellor's Office

DATE: _____