

Core Curriculum Appraisal Task Force  
Spring 2023 Report  
19 May 2023

Submitted by Fletcher Linder

**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. Curriculum is primarily vested with the faculty and developed through shared governance processes. This task force will facilitate broad collaboration and has the following responsibilities:

1. Use the 2021-22 APR to develop recommendations for facilitating discussion among faculty and other stakeholders 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.

**Members:** Fletcher Linder (chair), Quentin Alexander, Bethany Blackstone, John Burgess, Allison Fagan, Dana Haraway, Christine May (Faculty Senate), Meg Mulrooney, Carole Nash, Kane Nashimoto

## Meetings Held

Jan 23	Bi-weekly meeting
Jan 25	Meeting with COB leadership, including dept heads
Jan 26	Meeting with CAL leadership, including dept heads
Jan 30	Meeting with CISE leadership, including dept heads
Jan 30	Meeting with CSM leadership, including dept heads
Jan 31	Meeting SPCE Leadership, including dept head
Feb 2	Meeting with CVPA leadership, including dept heads
Feb 6	Bi-weekly meeting
Feb 7	Meeting with Libraries leadership
Feb 13	Meeting with COE leadership, including dept heads
Feb 27	Bi-weekly meeting
March 13	No meeting, spring break
March 20	Meeting with CARS
March 27	Bi-weekly meeting
March 30	Meeting with Faculty Senate
April 10	Bi-weekly meeting
April 24	Bi-weekly meeting
May 8	Bi-weekly meeting

## Scope of Work, Progress, Plans going Forward

### Connect with Faculty Leadership in Colleges

Meetings with all colleges were completed in spring 2023. CHBS and UNST meetings occurred in fall 2022, and UNST discussed again in spring 2023. Meetings emphasized the role of the task force in facilitating the university's deliberations about core curriculum reform, and that the current GenEd program is still being administered by Meg Mulrooney's office and the GEC. The task force solicited input regarding how to best facilitate wide and sustained faculty input. Communication with college leadership will be ongoing.

### Continue to develop formal connections with the General Education Council

Task force members continued to meet with the GEC during the spring semester. Connections with GEC will be ongoing.

The task force requested a discussion with General Education administration and the GEC leadership to begin a review and discussion of current C&I processes. This request was made in order to potentially expand the current C&I process, which currently includes only the GEC and CAP. Given the advice of several experts on General Education reform, the TF wants to help ensure faculty role/review/oversight is robust, and is appropriate to review any curricular changes that may affect the entire Academic Affairs division, including departments that are not currently represented in GenEd. The TF is hopeful these discussions will begin in fall 2023.

### Maintain formal connections with Faculty Senate

The task force representative from Faculty Senate continued to meet with Faculty Senate over the spring semester. Additional task force members attended the March 30 Faculty Senate meeting in which the TF gave an update on the group's work, highlighting particularly the TF's focus on faculty input. Connections with Faculty Senate will continue, and the TF is hopeful the Faculty Senate can help facilitate faculty involvement in discussion on core curriculum reform.

Create and deliver an initial faculty survey

The TF created and delivered an initial faculty survey this semester. The survey focused on such broad topics as the purpose of a core curriculum and general feedback about the current GenEd program. The TF will analyze information gathered in the survey and plans to post aggregated information on the CCATF webpage.

Create and post a CCATF webpage

The TF created and posted a CCATF webpage this semester. The website will be a repository of information relevant to core curriculum reform, and will serve as a standing communication portal for faculty input and questions. Updates to the webpage will be ongoing.