

Core Curriculum Appraisal Task Force  
AY 2024-25 Report  
20 May 2025

Submitted by Fletcher Linder

**Charge**

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.

Note on the CCATF’s charge revision:

In the CCATF’s original charge, the first item in the enumerated list of responsibilities read: “(1) The task force will use the 2021-2022 APR to develop recommendations for revising and renewing JMU’s core curriculum to better incorporate contemporary expectations for the liberal arts and sciences.” In response to faculty concerns that the CCATF had been charged to draft a revised general education curriculum, the Provost’s Office revised item (1) to clarify that the CCATF will support the process of general education renewal by facilitating broad engagement in the renewal process, but that the curriculum will be developed and approved by faculty.

**Members:** Fletcher Linder (chair), Bethany Blackstone, Kathy Clarke, Allison Fagan, Lindsay King, Christine May (Faculty Senate), Meg Mulrooney, Carole Nash, Sarah Sackett, Emily Westkaemper. Megan Good and John Hathcoat joined the CCATF work to assist with faculty feedback, and planning for Summer 2025 work.

## Meetings

July 1	Summer meeting
Aug 5	Summer meeting
Aug 28	Bi-weekly meeting
Sept 11	Bi-weekly meeting
Sept 18	Ad-hoc meeting
Sept 25	Bi-weekly meeting
Oct 9	Bi-weekly meeting
Oct 23	Bi-weekly meeting
Nov 6	Bi-weekly meeting
Nov 20	Bi-weekly meeting cancelled
Dec 4	Bi-weekly meeting
Jan 14	Ad-hoc meeting
Jan 22	Bi-weekly meeting
Jan 29	Bi-weekly meeting cancelled
Feb 12	Bi-weekly meeting
Feb 26	Bi-weekly meeting
Mar 12	Bi-weekly meeting
Mar 25	Faculty drop-in session
Mar 26	Faculty drop-in session
Mar 27	Faculty drop-in session
Mar 26	Bi-weekly meeting
April 4	Ad-hoc meeting
April 9	Bi-weekly meeting
April 23	Bi-weekly meeting
May 7	Bi-weekly meeting
May 12	Faculty round-table discussions, in conjunction with GEC
May 21	Bi-weekly meeting

## Scope of Work, Progress, Plans going Forward

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

Task force members continued to meet with the GEC during the 2024-25 AY. In conjunction with some GEC members, some CCATF members formed a team to participate in an AAC&U iGEPA workshop dedicated to General Education. As part of this Jan-June 2024 workshop, the JMU team drafted processes to help ensure continued faculty engagement with GenEd renewal. <https://www.aacu.org/event/igepa> The GEC and the CCATF also partnered in hosting round-table discussions on GenEd curricular topics being developed over Summer 2025. Those round-table discussions occurred in the CVPA upper lobby on May 12, 2025.

### Maintain formal connections with Faculty Senate

Senate Speaker Kathy Ott Walter requested Christine May continue to serve as the Senate Representative on the CCATF even as Christine no longer served as a senator in AY 2024-25.

### Enhance the CCATF webpage

The website continues to be built as a repository of information relevant to GenEd renewal, and serves as a standing communication portal for faculty input and questions. Updates to the webpage are ongoing. <https://www.jmu.edu/academic-affairs/core-curriculum/index.shtml>

### Build networks with external experts on GenEd renewal

The TF continued to make new contacts with, and strengthen existing relationships with, external experts on GenEd renewal. In the period covering Spring - Summer 2024, CCATF members, in conjunction with General Education Council members, formed a team to participate in an AAC&U iGEPA workshop dedicated to General Education. As part of this Jan-June 2024 workshop, the JMU team drafted processes to help ensure continued faculty engagement with GenEd renewal. <https://www.aacu.org/event/igepa>

### Create and deliver a second faculty survey

In Fall 2024, the TF created and delivered a second faculty survey. This instrument collected specific recommendations from faculty for GenEd renewal. The instrument collected 115 recommendations/proposals. These recommendations/proposals can be found [here](#).

### Collect faculty feedback on 115 recommendations/proposals

In March 2025, the TF collected 267 feedback responses on the 115 recommendations/proposals via the form found [here](#). Results of that feedback form can be found [here](#). The TF also held three faculty drop-in sessions to collect feedback on the recommendations/proposals. Those three drop-in sessions occurred on 25 March 2025 in King Hall, 26 March 2025 via Zoom, and 27 March 2025 in Gabbin Hall.

### Use faculty feedback on the proposals to form the focus of summer working groups

Faculty feedback led the TF to recommend to the provost the formation of three teams to develop three different proposals over Summer 2025. The rationale for this recommendation can be found [here](#).

### Form faculty teams for Summer 2025 work

The TF collected names of everyone who indicated on either of the two forms (the Fall 2024 survey, and the March 2025 feedback form) interest in working on summer groups. N=137. When that group was contacted with further information about the work expected over the summer, and the pay, we had ~35 people still interested in working over the summer. The TF considered faculty preference for working group foci, and college representation, to draft team membership. Draft teams were then sent to deans for review and comment. Draft team members were contacted to confirm. Summer teams are:

- Team A. Foci: Information literacy (including digital literacies, AI, digital citizenship, and literacies supporting research); streamlining student learning outcomes. Members: Tim Ball (CAL); Danielle DeRise (CAL); Samantha Harmon (Libraries); Noel Hendrickson (CISE); Fadi Majdoub (COB); Sojib Zaman (CHBS).

- Team B. Foci: Developing ideas in the “Timeless and Relevant” faculty proposal; upper-level integrative experiences. Members: Mary Beth Cancienne Acgtblu (COE); Dennis Beck (CVPA); Andreas Broscheid (CAL); Jonathan Gibson (CVPA); Phil Heap (COB); Heidi Pennington (CAL).
- Team C. Foci: First-year experience; writing. Members: Michael Hickman (CAL); Lindsay King (COB); Michael Klein (US); Jessica Kylo (Advising); Christine May (CSM); Alison Sandman (CAL).

#### Create the structure for, and supervise, Summer 2025 work

The TF continues to work on the structure for the Summer 2025 development of the three proposals. Twelve-month CCATF members will supervise Summer 2025 work. Proposals developed over the summer will come back to faculty for review and comment. The plan for approving the revised General Education Program calls for the formation of the [Ad Hoc Committee on the Core Curriculum](#) (CCC). Faculty have been instructed to contact their dean if they are interested in self-nominating to serve on the CCC committee beginning in Fall 2025. The CCC will formally take over the General Education renewal process from the CCATF beginning Fall 2025.

END OF REPORT