

Dear Humanities Department Heads,

OK, so that simplifies things, we will meet on **Monday, October 17 at 3 PM** in the **dean's conference room, 109B Griffin**.

**Background:** We've been tasked by Dr. Fabrice Leroy (Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs - Academic Programs) to reevaluate the University's current general education assessment broad goals and specific student learning outcomes in order to better align them with our own teaching goals and with the structure of the LA Board of Regents Gen Ed Requirements. This revision will give departments a stronger voice in the University's general education program, especially important as departments will have a greater role in carrying out this assessment moving forward. These changes will also help us to present a coherent and broad-based Gen Ed assessment process for our upcoming SACS review.

**Task:** As you know, the regents require all college students in the state to take 9 hours of humanities. I ask you to formulate (possibly with help from your faculty) your draft ideas for:

1. The overall goal for these hours (i.e., what do we hope to accomplish through these 9 hours)
2. A small number of more specific student learning outcomes (no more than 4-5) that you consider appropriate (primarily for non-majors in humanities courses (i.e., what specific, assessable skills/abilities/knowledge should all University students take away from their general education humanities electives?))
3. A sketch of how and in which courses we could go about assessing these outcomes (this will obviously be easier when we have decided on 1 and 2, but please start thinking about it).

**What we are replacing:** Currently, the University's statement of the goals and objectives for the humanities are somewhat confused and dispersed over several categories and mixed in with social sciences (one of the issues we're trying to address). It may be more confusing than helpful to look at these, but in case you want to, they are:

Goals:

Students should develop awareness of themselves as members of human society and citizens of their own communities. (though this also includes social sciences)

And

Students should understand the nature and value of literature...

And

Students should communicate effectively in oral and written English

and the specific student learning outcomes are:

1. Understand the diverse and complex nature of humanity
2. Create engaged citizens  
(though the above also apply to social sciences)
3. Collect, consume and critique basic and complex concepts in history
4. Interpret and write critically about literary or cultural texts
5. Think critically and read with comprehension
6. Write essays that make arguments appropriately supported by evidence, while synthesizing and documenting sources
7. Speak cogently in presenting information

So, our objective is to update these with a coherent set of goals and student learning outcomes specific to the humanities. When we have an overall draft we can also circle it back to faculty for comment.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Many thanks for your efforts, and I'm looking forward to the conversation.

Jordan