

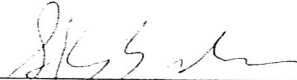


University of Colorado

Board of Regents

1800 Grant Street, Suite 800
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 860-5600

TO: Regent Steven Bosley, Chair
Board of Regents


Approved

FROM: Regent Stephen Ludwig
Regent Kyle Hybl

SL
KH

DATE: October 3, 2008

SUBJECT: Institutional Assessment of Undergraduate General Education Skills

I. REQUEST FOR ACTION BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS

We recommend that the following resolution be submitted for approval by the Board of Regents on October 7, 2008.

WHEREAS with faculty and campus leadership, all academic programs at the University of Colorado have thoughtfully and energetically pursued assessment systems to monitor and improve student academic progress; and

WHEREAS use of standardized instruments in general education assessment is an emerging best practice around the nation and would enhance the existing range of assessments used in undergraduate programs; and

WHEREAS the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC), of which the University of Colorado campuses are members, has urged its members to join in the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA), a system that requires use of standardized instruments in assessment of learning outcomes in general education; and

WHEREAS the Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Denver campuses are part of NASULGC's Voluntary System of Accountability; and

WHEREAS the Colorado Springs campus has successfully modeled the use of a standardized instrument in general education assessment as part of its overall learning outcomes assessment and has used it effectively to improve teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS the Board of Regents called for systems of measurement of academic progress at the board retreat in June 2007; and

WHEREAS the Board of Regents wishes to take all reasonable measures to ensure that CU graduates are equipped with the critical thinking, analysis and communications skills needed to be lifelong learners and fully participate as citizens of our country and thrive in the global economy; all of which benefits the student, the citizens of Colorado, our nation and the world; and

WHEREAS the Board of Regents praises the three CU campuses for their leadership in undergraduate general education assessment and wishes to ensure appropriate support for this initiative.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board endorses the campus initiatives to measure institutional effectiveness in general education and establishes the timetable that by the year 2009/2010, each CU campus will implement an annual general education assessment program that will include, at a minimum

- a) testing of a statistically meaningful cohort of freshman and a cohort of rising juniors or seniors, using one of the three standard instruments included in the NASULGC Voluntary System of Accountability (CLA, CAAP, MAPP), or another standardized instrument as may in the future be developed
- b) reasonable incentives for students to participate in the assessment
- c) analysis of the results of the testing to determine growth or value-added in college level general education skills, to help identify successful practices in teaching and learning, and to identify areas that may need improvement; and

RESOLVED that the Office of the President has agreed to make funding available to support the purchase and analysis of the general education assessment instrument; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research will include the results of this testing in the annual report on academic rigor, and, in consultation with Faculty Council and with the vice chancellors for academic affairs, will report at the end of the third cycle of testing on the effectiveness and impact of general education assessment at the University of Colorado.

II. STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

This item was reviewed and discussed at the Academic Affairs Committee meeting on August 21, 2008. This matter was previously reviewed and discussed at the May 26, 2008, board retreat as well as the June 27, 2007, Academic Affairs Committee meeting.

III. PREVIOUS ACTION

None.