

**University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Team
AAC&U General Education Institute
Final Report, June 2008**

The team benefited greatly through participation in the organized sessions, team meetings with Institute faculty, and discussions with other teams. While at the Institute, the team developed the following goals to implement in the coming academic year to advance the general education reform at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee:

Goals for 2008-09:

1. Reconvene the UWM General Education Task Force and expand its membership
 - a. Increase faculty and instructional academic staff membership
 - b. In collaboration with Student Affairs, establish a process to engage students in the discussions of the TF
 - c. Invite academic advisors
2. Establish an organizational structure to the TF by appointing a chair, forming task-oriented working groups for communication and outreach, research (for best practices), and data analysis, and inquiry (for example, what is the impact of proposed curricular changes).
 - a. Expand the working groups to include others that are not on the TF but will be key contributors of knowledge and information relevant to the task
3. Establish an active web presence for the TF as a means of communication of its work to the campus community.
4. Build on the work of the TF in the past year to develop a concise document, in plain English, on
 - a. the overarching educational philosophy for general education to span four years and have a close connection to serve the major.
 - b. the common learning goals and principles for all undergraduate students at UWM.
 - c. In doing the above, the TF should consider keeping the aspects in the current Gen Ed document that are worth preserving and focus on what needs to be changed to improve student learning.
5. Engage campus constituencies in discussions to gain support for and approval of the common learning goals and principles
 - a. Provost, Deans, Associate Deans, Department Chairs in groups and individually, as needed
 - b. faculty groups in departments, schools/colleges, as needed
 - c. faculty governance leadership and APCC
 - d. Advising network

6. Faculty and staff development
 - a. Establish an active program of providing support for departments in reformulating their learning outcomes consistent with the common learning goals for undergraduate education
 - b. Continue to provide support for assessment at course and program levels
7. As a potential quick win, examine the current English Composition competency requirement to modify it to a “writing competency” goal for providing students with writing-intensive courses at all levels of the undergraduate curriculum including at least one course in the major.

Communication:

The team will meet with Provost followed by meeting with the Deans Council and with the full Gen Ed Task Force to lead a discussion on the proposals of the team for action plans and goals for the next academic year and a proposed timeline for the overall general education reform.