

Proposed group conversation with Dr. Gaston

Framework: A 2-hour conversation on specific issues relating to revising and enacting a revised general education curriculum.

Attendees: This conversation will take place before the 45-minute overview of trends in general education, and thus we need to restrict the group to those who have already been engaged in thinking about current trends in general education and are amenable to considering a revision of our current general education program. The group size should be 10-20 people, and should be predominantly faculty members, from across multiple colleges and departments, with some professional staff and administrators who are members of one or more of the following groups in priority order: BUCCS leadership team; undergraduate research committee; those who expressed interest in continuing the BUCCS effort regarding General Education; and the General Education Committee.

Agenda: The conversation should allow us to collectively explore some number of the following topics:

- What lessons can be learned from institutions that have struggled with implementing one or more aspects of what they considered an ideal general education program? What seems good on paper but is difficult to implement?
- What is the role of an individual faculty member in the general education revising/implementation process (“the process”)?
- What are the roles of non-academic, support units in the process?
- What are the institutional/cultural roadblocks that we might expect are most likely to impair our vision during the process?
- Do we need to consider aspects of assessment (other than compiling a list of preferred student learning outcomes) before we set goals?

Preparation: We would like the opportunity to explore the proposed agenda and group composition with Dr. Gaston in advance of sending out invitations. He may have suggestions regarding either the composition of the group or the topics to be considered. We would like a prioritized list of conversation points in order to most effectively utilize his time.