

Overview of General Education Review at York College
2005-2006

Respectfully submitted by D. Swoboda

In 2005, the York College General Education Review Committee was charged by the Provost to assess the college's general education curriculum. The committee, chaired by Prof. Ruttenberg and VP Smith, developed a *General Education Mission Statement*. The Committee also undertook a review of general education course objectives. Representative syllabi were obtained for a significant portion of general education courses and a rubric of objectives was developed to assess which courses met which objectives across sections and instructors. Two outcomes resulted. First, the committee, then chaired by Prof. Swoboda, ascertained that many syllabi were lacking a clear statement or indication of course objectives. As a result, the Committee conducted a faculty development workshop on "Articulating Course Objectives" in fall 2006. Second, the committee submitted the *General Education Mission Statement* to the Faculty Senate for approval. The document was adopted by the Senate in fall 2006 as a descriptive framework for the existing general education curriculum. Given these developments, at the last meeting of the committee in November 2006, members discussed whether to continue assessment of the existing curriculum and/or whether to pursue initiatives that would lead to possible revision of the general education curriculum.

In concert with these developments beginning in 2005, the Office of Undergraduate Education at CUNY 80th Street, led by Dean J. Summerfield, began an initiative to look at general education across CUNY campuses. Faculty and administrators across the campuses came together on a monthly basis to discuss, research, and define the place of general education at each college. The forums also included presentations by representatives involved in national and local CUNY initiatives to reform general education on their campuses, and evaluation of data and trends informing this process. (Representatives from the General Education Review Committee participated in these forums.) As a result, a number of CUNY campuses began programs to assess and change their general education curriculums, and an annual CUNY general education conference was initiated to allow campus representatives to present these efforts. Participants involved in programs aligned with the objectives of the general education project such as Coordinated Undergraduate Education (CUE), the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL), and the Center(s) for Teaching and Learning (CETL), also brought their contributions to this discussion.