

Gen Ed Task Force Subcommittee 1 – Departmental Liaison
Departmental Visit Outline
Fall 2005

As you no doubt are aware, among the University-wide graduation requirements for undergraduates is completion of UND's General Education requirements. The current goals for the Gen Ed program are that students be able to:

- 1) communicate effectively, both orally and in writing;
- 2) think critically and creatively;
- 3) make informed choices;
- 4) understand how conclusions are reached in the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the arts and humanities;
- 5) acquire knowledge over a broad spectrum of subject areas;
- 6) develop some familiarity with cultures other than their own.

The General Education Task Force has been charged with re-examining the General Education program and proposing any needed changes. Specific tasks to be accomplished over the next couple of years include:

- 1) reviewing existing data regarding Gen Ed at UND as well as national trends;
- 2) articulating the purpose and specific educational goals of Gen Ed at UND;
- 3) planning for assessment of Gen Ed goals;
- 4) considering alignment of goals with curriculum and assessment;
- 5) recommending changes in goals, communication of goals to students and faculty, alignment of goals and curriculum; and assessment;
- 6) implementing and institutionalizing the results of the self-study.

We are a part of the subcommittee tasked with soliciting input on Gen Ed from faculty members in departments that are the largest producers (i.e., teachers) and consumers (i.e., students) of General Education courses. We take the Task Force's charge, as well as the importance of General Education at UND, very seriously, and believe that your participation in the process of reconsidering the goals and measures of success of general education is absolutely imperative to the success of our efforts. We also think that it's important to remember that the ultimate goal of General Education is to help students become better participants in and contributors to all aspects of society.

We have just a few questions for you, and we hope to carry back to the Task Force not only your specific input, but also some universal themes raised by faculty and departments across the UND community.

In your opinion,

- I. What is the purpose of General Education at UND?
 - A. How do the courses you teach fit that purpose?
 - B. How do the courses your students take fit that purpose?

II. How well does the General Education program serve your students? How do you know?

III. What changes should be made to the following aspects of the General Education program at UND?

- A. Purpose/Goals
- B. Value of Gen Ed at UND (separate academic program, Gen Ed faculty, etc.)
- C. Number/Type of Courses/Classifications
- D. Validation/Revalidation Process

IV. Do you have any others concerns/suggestions that you would like to share with the Gen Ed Task Force?