

Dear USG Faculty,

Thank you for your comments regarding the USG Core Curriculum Initiative. At the request of some of you, we have extended the survey deadline until the end of April. Once the survey closes, your feedback on the initial, preliminary work of project committees will be available for your review on the project website <http://www.strongfoundations.usg.edu/>). On behalf of these committees, I thank you for taking time from your very busy lives to review work to date and to provide thoughtful suggestions for future directions.

A number of you asked us to seek additional ways to link campus discussion and deliberation with the university system process for the core curriculum initiative. Over the past few months, we have listened to and reflected on your concerns and suggestions and formulated some process changes that I believe will strengthen campus to system communication (and vice versa) and also strengthen campus level discussion and input. I have now been authorized to make these changes, and I am writing to share them with you.

### Campus-based Committees

We will expand formal faculty participation and leadership in the USG Core Curriculum Initiative by creating for each USG institution a campus-based committee of 5 faculty members. Membership on these committees will include the current institutional representative on the project plus representation from your faculty senate/council curriculum committee. The faculty at your institution will elect two additional members at large. A final committee member will be identified based on participation in your general education/core curriculum committee or teaching/learning

initiatives. We will ask your chief academic officer and faculty senate/council chair to work together to identify committee members.

Members of these campus-based committees will participate in the entire USG Core Curriculum Initiative as follows:

- 1) Members of campus-based committee will participate in periodic regional faculty seminars/workshops designed to provide a forum for discussion and deliberation on topics related to the USG Core Curriculum Initiative. Participation will be funded through the project budget.
- 2) Prior to each meeting of USG Core Curriculum Initiative committees (CCIC), the project steering committee will send out a list of tasks, items, feedback, and/or readings that it wants these committees to consider. Each campus group will work on these together, and the campus representative (or designee) will bring the consensus of the group back to the CCIC.

### USG Academic Advisory Committees

We also will add the chairs of USG academic advisory committees as members of the CCIC. These chairs will be responsible for facilitating communication and feedback with their committees, which include representation from institutions across the USG. Advisory committee chairs will receive that same list of tasks, items, feedback, and/or readings received by campus-based committees, will work on these with their respective committees, and will bring the consensus of their groups back to the CCIC.

## Open Ended Discussion

Some of you have asked us to include a blog on the project website to foster open-ended discussion across the USG about the Core Curriculum Initiative. We think this is a good idea and will have this up soon! We will also be updating the “FAQ” on the website to address questions that have arisen with the initiation of the project.

Again, I thank you for your good suggestions. I also want to thank the representatives from your institutions who allowed me to put forward for your review and comment their very preliminary and incomplete work from a single meeting. Transparency is not always easy but in the end it yields better results.

My best wishes to you during the final hectic weeks of the spring term.

Dorothy Leland  
President  
Georgia College & State University