May 8, 2011

To: Myron Allen

From: The Stage One Task Force on General Education at UW:
    Indy Burke, Tammy Aagard, Jim Ahern, Penne Ainsworth, Tom Edgar, 
    Alyson Hagy, Jayne Jenkins, Erika Prager, John Spitler, Lynn Stainacker, 
    Karen Williams

Please find attached our report on general education at the University of 
Wyoming. We have recommended learning outcomes for the baccalaureate, 
evaluated the extent to which those outcomes may be assessed, and made 
recommendations regarding the scope of general education requirements. We 
would like to highlight some of the key aspects of our work:

1. Through our focused set of learning outcomes and our recommended 
scope, we have sought to devise a structure that will provide simplicity, 
flexibility, transparency, and ease of transition for students, including 
transfer students, undeclared students, students changing majors, and 
students with extracurricular activities.

2. The learning outcomes we recommend may be achieved in a variety of 
ways that will not require extensive course approval. This will enhance 
opportunities for faculty creativity and student discovery.

3. We do not believe key learning outcomes should be linked only to certain 
courses. Rather, achievement of these outcomes should be a goal of all 
levels of the curriculum.

4. We recommend 32 credits of general education coursework at the 
foundational level. Pursuit of university learning outcomes must continue, 
in a deeper and more integrated manner, at the advanced (3000-4000) level 
within degree programs.

5. Because of 3 and 4 above, departments will engage in the achievement of 
university learning outcomes, taking more responsibility and gaining more 
flexibility for their majors.

We would be pleased to meet with you to address any questions you might have 
about our report. We also enthusiastically volunteer to meet with the next 
committee in order to share information about our deliberations.

Finally, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve the University in 
this way. It was a kick working together, and we hope you like the product.