

Idaho State UNIVERSITY

General Education Requirements Committee

921 South 8th Avenue, Stop 8070 • Pocatello, Idaho 83209-8070

December 17, 2015

Re: Gen Ed Assessment Activities in Spring 2016

Dear Chairs, Deans, Directors, and Assessment Plan Authors,

Thank you for all your hard work this fall drafting assessment plans for ISU's general education courses. So far GERC has approved 60 plans, and most of the remaining 80 are only a tweak or two away from fully satisfying the criteria laid out by our general education assessment program. We know that a mammoth amount of effort has gone into this process already, and I'm sure that I speak for everyone on GERC in sharing my sincere appreciation for the patience with which colleagues have humored our requests for clarifications and revisions. GERC will continue to work directly with authors in order to approve remaining plans in January.

In order to satisfy the requirements imposed by NWCCU, we ask that departments please begin to implement these plans, to whatever extent that is feasible, this spring. Given the short turnaround from planning to action we don't expect departments to collect comprehensive assessment data by next fall, but we hope that even a partial roll out of these plans will enable everyone to work the kinks out in preparation to run full gen ed assessment programs in 2016-2017. GERC will be asking for brief progress reports in Fall 2016, and laying out the format of that report is on our spring agenda, but we have realistic expectations for the scope and detail of the assessment activities that are possible in various departments across campus this spring.

One question that has come up repeatedly this fall is how student work and other assessment materials should be retained to comply with accreditor expectations and FERPA regulations. At GERC's request, the Office of Academic Affairs has issued a memo clarifying appropriate practices in this regard, and this document is attached for your information. We hope that as other questions and concerns arise, you will stay in touch with GERC either through me or through your unit's representative. Please let us know if there are any steps we can take to facilitate this process as it moves forward.

Thanks again and best wishes for the holidays,

Andy Holland
GERC Chair