

## **“General Education and the Illinois Articulation Initiative”**

A Position Paper forwarded by

The Faculty Advisory Council to the Illinois Board of Higher Education

Approved February 27, 2004

Recognizing that the general education courses offered by colleges and universities participating in the Illinois Articulation Initiative form the fundamental foundation for the higher education learning experience, the Faculty Advisory Council proposes that the Illinois Board of Higher Education provide for inclusion of the following in the guidelines and procedures for the general education standards. The Faculty Advisory Council recommends that:

- Representation on the general education panel of the Illinois Articulation Initiative should reflect the full range of undergraduate academic programs offered by participating colleges and universities.
- A student who completes a course at a participating IAI institution that meets that institution’s general education requirements shall be deemed to have met that segment requirement at other participating IAI institutions whether or not the student has completed an associate’s degree.
- The general education program at each participating institutions should be such that each student must complete some courses offered in academic programs other than those in their general area of study. To encourage breadth and diversity of study, courses in the student’s major should not be deemed to meet a general education requirement.
- Institutional representatives on the general education panel be selected for a term of three years and that representation should alternate between the academic programs that comprise the traditional liberal arts and those in the other academic programs offered by the institution. The IBHE staff should develop a procedure that establishes when the term of each eligible institution begins and ends and the academic area from which the representative will be chosen. Provision should be made for an institution’s representative to be chosen by the primary faculty governance body.
- The standards and guidelines adopted by the general education panel
  - should respect the mission of each participating institution,
  - should not promote a standardized general education at all participating institutions,
  - should encourage each participating institution to adopt general education curricula that include courses outside the traditional liberal arts and that provide opportunities to expose students, especially those in the arts, humanities and sciences, to the broad range of other disciplines and academic programs offered by that institution, and
  - should promote the goals of the Illinois Commitment.