To: Barb Putman  
From: Barb Putman  
Date: December 8, 2005  
Re: General Education Core Competencies

As we have reported throughout the year, the Arts and Sciences faculty have designed a system for assessing general education competencies for SCC graduates. While the impetus behind this formal assessment is in response to current SACS standards, we are using this as an opportunity to review our program, renew our mission, and revisit our effectiveness in meeting the needs of all students and programs. The assessment system we've developed is designed not as an end-point but, instead, is intended to continue and refocus the conversation among colleagues in the three divisions about what, why, how, and when general education content is most valuable for our students.

We've piloted the instrument with our College Transfer graduates and now need your assessment of where the graduates in your program stand in regard to competence in general education areas. Please see the attached rubric for detailed descriptions of varying levels of competency in each area. This assessment should be based on your overall experience with the student with emphasis on his/her current abilities. Please take into account the different ways you have seen the student demonstrate these competencies through classes, assignments, exams, projects, presentations, and clinical/co-op experiences. In Arts and Sciences, we found that the most valuable aspects of this process thus far were our face-to-face meetings where we discussed each student and his/her status. These discussions helped us refresh each other's memories and share a well-rounded picture of students' performances from a variety of perspectives.

After we analyze the results of your assessment, we will proceed with actions based on identified needs. For example, if a program reports that many students are demonstrating marginal competency in a certain area, we will need to problem-solve together to see how we can better serve your students and program.

Please return your results to Barb Putman via campus mail by Wednesday, April 27. If you would prefer to report results electronically, please email Sharon Owen, and she will send you an electronic version of the spreadsheet. Thank you for your input into this important study for the continuous improvement of our general education program.