

**Request for Discussion/Action to the RIT Intercollege Curriculum
Committee/Academic Senate:**

**Conceptual approval of general education learning outcomes and assessment
strategies**

Last update: 26 September 2008

Context: The draft **General Education: A White Paper for the RIT Community** has been prepared for the RIT Community and is in response to a charge from former Provost, Dr. Stanley D. McKenzie to review the current status of general education at RIT and to explore options for the future. The Paper is a delineation of the work to date of the faulty team charged by Dr. McKenzie and describes the first two phases of the team's work.

First, a conceptualization of contemporary RIT general education in the form of a set of five General Education Learning Outcomes and an introduction to modes of assessment the achievement of these Outcomes, both by the individual student and for the general education curriculum as a whole, is described.

Second, five distinct process essential to implementation of this conceptual framework steps are presented.

The importance of this work cannot be overstated. The "Report to the Faculty, Administration, Trustees, and Students of the ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY by An Evaluation Team representing the Middle States Commission on Higher Education" pursuant to submission of the RIT Self-Study and the Middle States evaluation team campus visit of March 20 - 23, 2007, requests a letter which, among other things, will require a report on our progress toward the clearer definition and assessment of general education at RIT, to be submitted to the Middle States Commission by April of 2009.

Dr. Jeremy Haefner, RIT Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, has reviewed the draft White Paper and has requested a conceptual review by the Intercollege Curriculum Committee (ICC)/Academic Senate. Approval of the concept will prove invaluable to the response to Middle States.

At this present stage of an ongoing process, we request the following.

Request: Approve the conceptual framework of an RIT General Education Curriculum that is defined by:

- 1) a set of no more than five General Education Learning Outcomes and
- 2) a sustainable assessment and evaluation strategy, which will measure the effectiveness of student learning and the general education program, based on those outcomes.

Ongoing commitment: The specific details related to the content of these outcomes will evolve based on input received from the broader RIT community and the lessons learned from the upcoming pilot program. Final approval of the content of the outcomes will come from the normal governance approval processes, which certain include the ICC and the Academic Senate. In addition, the final recommendation will include a two-pronged assessment strategy: (1) an assessment of individual student achievement and (2) the overall assessment of the general education curriculum.