

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GENERAL EDUCATION REFORM AT SIUE

2003: Objectives Steering Committee

The Objectives Steering Committee was appointed by the Faculty Senate and the Provost's Office and was charged with reviewing the Statement of Objectives for General Education and the Baccalaureate Degree.

Recommendation: Involve faculty in rethinking the general education curriculum.

2004: American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) General Education Institute

An SIUE team composed of an administrator, Faculty Senate leaders, and faculty members participated in the AAC&U General Education Institute.

Recommendation: Appoint a general education renewal steering committee called BRIDGE (Baccalaureate Reform through Integrated Design of General Education).

2005 – 2007: BRIDGE Process

The BRIDGE Committee consisted of faculty, staff, students, administrators and a community member and was charged with overseeing the reform process. Faculty, staff, students, and community members worked together to form teams and create models for general education. From eleven teams, a clustering approach resulted in three teams who worked on more refined models.

March 29, 2007: All-Faculty Meeting

The three designs were presented and faculty members were given a chance to ask questions, provide feedback, and vote.

Result: 355 of 503 eligible faculty members voted and the distribution of votes is as follows:

<i>Integrated Core</i>	52 (15%)
<i>Distribution</i>	217 (61%)
<i>Learning Communities</i>	27 (8%)
<i>None of the above</i>	59 (16%)

April 3, 2008: Faculty Senate Approval

Faculty Senate approved the "Recommendations for a New General Education Program" submitted by the BRIDGE Committee.

2008 – 2009: BRIDGE Implementation Committee (BIC) and New Freshman Seminar (NFS) Implementation Task Force

BIC consisted of faculty members, administrators, Faculty Senate leaders, staff and a student. The committee was charged with developing an implementation plan that includes a time frame for each component of the Lincoln Program as well as the estimated costs associated with each implementation phase.

The NFS Implementation Task Force consisted of faculty, administrators, and staff and was charged with developing strategies for ensuring the successful implementation of the New Freshman Seminar, a component of the Lincoln Program.

2010: BRIDGE Reconciliation Committee

The BRIDGE Reconciliation Committee was charged with fully reviewing and assessing the budget requirements of the Lincoln Program.

October 14, 2010: Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Final reports of committees involved in the general education reform were compiled and presented to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee as an informational item.