

Resolution of the Faculty Senate of Virginia Tech
September 16, 2014

The currently proposed revisions to the existing Curriculum for Liberal Education (CLE) are a significant undertaking. The Faculty Senate believes that it is critical to get these revisions right. We have identified numerous problems in the existing document which must be addressed before the Pathways project moves forward. We are committed to engaging as partners in this process, but deliberations and discussions within the Faculty Senate and among the faculty at large will take time. Some of the clearest issues for concern that we have identified include the following:

1. We are uncertain why the humanities and social sciences are lumped together in one category. The explanation that the project teams wanted to encourage interdisciplinarity is not sufficient.
2. We are not confident that sufficient resources will be made available to departments to offer Pathways courses and curricula and to perform necessary assessments.
3. The learning outcomes for several areas need to be rewritten to get rid of jargon, to identify clear and assessable outcomes, and to treat disciplines as actual areas of inquiry rather than as domains for reflection.
4. The problems that the proposed revision to the CLE is trying to fix have not been identified or described. As a result, it is difficult to understand why the existing curriculum is not adequate to accomplish general education goals nor why more modest changes to the existing curriculum are not in order.

Until these and other issues are addressed in a manner satisfactory to the Faculty Senate, the Faculty Senate cannot endorse the Pathways proposal.

We look forward to working with members of the office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs and its staff in the Pathways office, members of the UCCLC, and members of CUSP as the written drafts of the Pathways proposal are put forward for approval through governance.