

REVISED DRAFT INVITATION TO LUNCHEONS

February 2, 2004

On behalf of the VP for Planning, Assessment, and Resource Management and the University Curriculum Committee, we are inviting you to a luncheon and informal discussion of the Social Science requirement that is part of the university's General Education requirements.

As you know, these Gen Ed requirements are fulfilled by a wide variety of courses offered by many different departments. However, there have been few opportunities for faculty teaching these designated courses to jointly explore strategies for improving student learning in these core areas or to discuss the relationship between their courses and the Gen Ed criteria. Past assessment efforts have been designed without the direct involvement of the faculty members actually teaching the courses, and the results have been of very limited use. These are some of the problems we were hoping to begin to address.

During the spring semester, we want to begin an exploration of how faculty and departments participating in two of the general education areas—Social Science and Western Culture and Civilization—understand the goals and criteria associated with those areas and relate their courses to the curricular requirement.

As a faculty member teaching a course that meets the Social Science requirement, (or a member of a department regularly offering courses in the area), you are cordially invited and encouraged to attend a Social Science luncheon on Wednesday, February 25 from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in MC 410.

We hope that this luncheon will provide an opportunity for some informal discussion of the extent of consensus about the requirement, to identify some of the problems that faculty encounter in relating their courses to the criteria, and to consider some possible strategies for assessing the effectiveness of the requirement. Peter Meiksins, chair of the UCC, has agreed to facilitate the discussion.

We are also hoping to find a group of faculty teaching Social Science courses who would be interested in meeting periodically during a semester to discuss their courses, clarify their objectives, identify strategies for fostering the educational goals associated with the requirement, and, possibly, develop some recommendations for evaluating student learning outcomes and improving the curriculum. We hope that such a project will provide valuable, practical support to those participating, provide useful, experience-based feedback to the UCC, which is charged with implementing the curriculum, and establish the groundwork for developing a useful and realistic assessment strategy for our general education requirements.

We hope that you will be willing to take part in this initial conversation. The free lunch is being provided by Dr. Kaul's office, and attendance does not entail any commitment to

participation in further projects or activities. Please contact Debra Sudy at 687-5324 (or d.sudy@csuohio.edu) to reserve a place at the luncheon.