GE Conversation III: Glossary of Terms

Capstone Course/Culminating Experience: An upper division class designed to help students integrate knowledge and skills, typically taken in the senior year. Capstone courses are frequently used to assess SLOs.

Commitment to Human Rights and a Just Society: Academic courses or curricula that instill in students ethical standards that result in the promotion of a more just society. This necessitates that students be exposed to, and learn to value, civic participation and a multitude of cultures, belief systems, and traditions across their communities and the world.

Curricular Community Engagement: Where teaching, learning and scholarship engage faculty, students, and community in mutually beneficial collaboration. An example is students in a tax accounting course preparing tax returns for individuals in the community.

Globalization: Any approach to education or learning that explores how technology and the rapid diffusion of ideas and information are influencing and transforming geographies, economies, and societies. This approach investigates how social relations and transactions at a variety of scales, from neighborhoods to the entire globe, are both being influenced by and influencing these transformations.

Integrative: A requirement that all students take a common course; courses team-developed and/or team taught by faculty from different disciplines; sequential courses that have common learning outcomes or related content.

Learning Communities: The most basic form of learning community is *Linked Courses* in which two or more courses are taken by the same group of students in a given term. A more developed and beneficial form of learning community is the *Integrated Learning Community* in which the content of two or more courses, taken by the same group of students, is related to a topic or a theme. There is a concerted effort by the faculty to relate as many course topics, readings, assignments and extracurricular activities to the common topic or theme, and thereby, to the other courses in the learning community.

Satisfying GE Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) in Major Courses: Courses or curricula that have both degree program outcomes and GE outcomes. For example, a "History of Chemistry" course could have both Chemistry SLOs and humanities and social science GE area SLOs.

Thematic Delivery of Courses: A group of courses that addresses a common topic from different perspectives. One example is the upper division themes at CSULA. There may be a required sequence or specific prerequisites to better reinforce the different perspectives.

Urban Focus: Academic courses or curricula that spotlight metropolitan places and processes. This includes investigations into the creation and transformation of cities through time and space, studies of how municipalities are influencing human behavior and activities, and research into how people interact with and view the natural world as a result of the impact of cities on the natural environment.

Writing/Critical Thinking/Information Literacy Across the Curriculum. The inclusion of metaskills such as writing, critical thinking, information literacy, etc. throughout the curriculum rather than as stand-alone courses only. An example would be the requirement that a student take a certain number of GE and/or major courses that are "writing intensive" or a certain number of writing courses that are linked to content courses.