

# Addendum to Office of General Education Report

## Update on Civic Learning/American Institutions May 2022

The Office of General Education (OGE) submits this addendum with additional information about the approach to addressing ABOR policy 2-210, specifically the assessment requirements and the civic learning/American Institutions requirements, as a supplement to the reports from OGE to Faculty Senate on the following dates:

- [8/3/2020](#)
- [9/14/2020](#)
  
- [4/5/2021](#)
- [10/4/2021](#) (Update from UWGEC)
- [11/1/2021](#)
  
- [4/4/2022](#) (Report)
- [5/2/2022](#) (Report)

## ABOR Assessments

UArizona has been an active participant in all conversations led by ABOR staff with the three universities about the four assessments required for General Education according to policy 2-210. The following timeline for rolling out the assessments was approved by ABOR and is being followed by all three universities, and we have included brief updates about each one:

- Written Communication:
  - The three universities have worked collaboratively to design the assessment and the methods of collecting artifacts for scoring
  - Artifacts collected this year and scoring will take place in May 2022
  - Regents have requested data/results in Fall 2022 from all three universities
- Quantitative Reasoning:
  - UArizona has submitted a draft rubric for consideration by the tri-university assessment group working on Quantitative Reasoning
  - Conversations about the QR assessment stopped with Helen Baxendale's resignation from the ABOR staff but are restarting now that Andrew Comrie has been charged with leading efforts for ABOR
  - The assessment is scheduled to launch in AY22-23
- Critical Thinking:

- Discussions among the three universities are still in early stages. A tri-university group has not yet been identified, and if any UArizona faculty are interested in participating, please contact Elaine Marchello ([evm@arizona.edu](mailto:evm@arizona.edu)) or Susan Miller-Cochran ([millercochran@arizona.edu](mailto:millercochran@arizona.edu))
- The assessment is scheduled to launch in AY23-24
- Civic Learning/American Institutions:
  - Discussions among the three universities are still in early stages. A tri-university group has not yet met
  - A civic learning task force has been launched at UArizona (see below). If any faculty are interested in participating, please contact Suzi Dovi ([sdovi@arizona.edu](mailto:sdovi@arizona.edu)) or Susan Miller-Cochran ([millercochran@arizona.edu](mailto:millercochran@arizona.edu))
  - The assessment is scheduled to launch in AY24-25

In addition to the work on the ABOR assessments, UArizona has a team participating in the [Higher Learning Commission's Assessment Academy](#), working on our assessment of General Education. The HLC Assessment Academy gives UArizona the opportunity to work with an HLC assessment mentor who acts as a mentor/reviewer during our three years of participating in the academy. We receive feedback and suggestions on the development of our assessment approach, and we also have the opportunity to learn about the assessment approaches being used by other HLC institutions participating in the academy. The team participating in the HLC Assessment Academy from UArizona are:

Elaine Marchello, OGE (Director of GE Assessment), Team Lead  
 Gail Burd, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs  
 Lisa Elfring, Director of the Office of Instruction and Assessment  
 Susan Miller-Cochran, SBS (Professor of English, Executive Director of General Education)  
 Jim Hunt, CALS (Assistant Dean for Career and Academic Services)  
 Analeigh Horton (OGE Graduate Assistant for Assessment)

## Launch of Civic Learning Task Force

The Office of General Education launched a **civic learning task force**/advisory group for development of the approach to civic learning/American Institutions in the UArizona GE curriculum and to prepare us for designing and implementing an assessment. The task force includes the following nine faculty and researchers who were invited because of their specific areas of expertise and how they connect to the ABOR policy:

Suzi Dovi, SBS (SGPP), Chair of the Task Force and GE Faculty Coordinator for Civic Learning/American Institutions  
 Stephanie Capaldi, College of Science (MCB)  
 Tessa Dysart, College of Law (Constitutional Law) *unable to participate in Spring '22 but joining in Summer '22 and beyond*  
 Danielle Hiraldo, Native Nations Institute

Kate Kenski, SBS (Communication, SGPP)  
Saura Masconale, College of Law and Center for the Philosophy of Freedom  
Jennie McStotts, Honors College  
Jeannine Relly, SBS (Journalism, SGPP)  
Mark Stegeman, Eller (Economics)  
Jeremy Vetter, SBS (History)

The **charges** of the civic learning task force are:

1. Define UArizona's **learning outcome(s)** for civic knowledge/American institutions.
2. Determine the **best approach** to help students develop expertise and reach the learning outcome(s) within the GE curriculum (they have been given a free range of options/possibilities).
3. Design an **assessment** for incoming students to determine what areas of expertise they have already developed and that will help them determine which courses/areas of expertise they need to focus on. This assessment will need to align with the assessment we develop with ASU and NAU to fulfill ABOR's requirement for an assessment in this area, so the task force should also provide guidance for efforts in that area.
4. Work with faculty across campus to **identify and develop courses** that fulfill the mandate laid out in ABOR's Policy 2-210. These courses will also align with the overall learning outcomes of General Education and, as such, will integrate perspective-taking, analyzing structures of power, and ensuring that a wide range of viewpoints and experiences are represented.