

## **QEP # 5: Development of Themes within General Education**

### **Pros:**

- Megan (student): Right now students do not feel like the liberal education courses are relevant
- Samantha (student): Got more out of a series of courses that had interconnectivity
- Feasible – is not resource intensive, is easy to implement and is “do-able”
- Allow us the opportunity to assess the liberal education curriculum broadly in a focused, intentional way
- Improved faculty morale/more attractive to teach liberal education courses
- Contextualizes courses for students
- Marketing tool for prospective students
- Gives students some structure and intentionality

### **Measurement:**

- How to measure the outcomes?
  - Existing mechanism for LBST classes
  - Can use existing writing prompt within thematic context
  - Course evaluations, NSSE data, and existing evaluations that ask questions related to student evaluation of liberal education

### **Combining possibilities:**

- Internationalization
- Critical thinking
- Sustainability
- Digital literacy
- Public discourse
- E-portfolio

### **Theme ideas:**

- Internationalization/global perspectives
- Sustainability
- Civic engagement/ethics
- Technology/digital literacy
- Health

### **Areas for Consideration:**

- Connection to increasing retention and graduation rates?
  - Could help time to graduation by streamlining process
  - Could help students decide on a major
- To what extent do we “require” this? What are the incentives?
  - Taking all four courses, would give them some type of ‘credential’
  - Could lead towards minor
  - Could be considered as prerequisites towards major
- Additional campus programming around themes
- How is best to communicate this information to students?
- Course scheduling can impact how students register
- Could students receive a ‘certificate’ or indication on their transcript that they completed this series of courses?
- What are the implications for courses that are taught by part-time faculty? (is 40% currently)
- Could students be able to receive a minor in a theme? Or could this be a start to a minor?

- Do we need to re-evaluate double-dipping?