Draft Proposal for College Option at CSI: Model 4

Proposed by Dan McCloskey

Rationale: CSI’s general education reform presents an opportunity to restructure the college experience for our students, and offer an innovative approach to general education that may attract students from other colleges as well as external funding. By offering more discipline-independent courses in the spirit of the existing COR 100 course, students will have greater exposure to multiple disciplines. This approach will allow our students to be more informed as they plan the Pathways core credits, and may help with student retention and graduation rates. It may also allow students to take higher-level courses in the Pathways curriculum (A student who received 5 weeks of training in Italian, may qualify for a 200-level Italian course in Pathways). Changing our approach significantly may qualify us for funding from the DoE “First in the World” initiative.

Departments and programs that are “at risk” as a result of Gen Ed reform should be the first to benefit from any external funding as a result of this reform. Also, incentives should be provided to maintain high student enrollment in those classes. Examples of incentives might be restructuring the Verrazano School requirements, and offering tuition or textbook incentives for students who register for courses with a well-rounded education (e.g. students who enroll in an art, a science, and a language in the same semester).

College Option 12 credits

A. COR 100: Issues in College Life (1 Credit)
   I. Redesigned from SPD 101, taught by student services.

B. COR 101: Past, Present, and Future (3 credits)
   I. Past: 5 weeks taught by History /PEP/ Art History
   II. Present: 5 weeks taught by Library/ Business
   III. Future: 5 weeks taught by Computer science/ Engineering/ Media Culture

C. COR 102: Life, Physical, and Social Sciences (3 credits)
   I. Life: 5 weeks taught by Biology/Chemistry
   II. Physical: 5 weeks taught by Physics/Astronomy/Geology
   III. Social: 5 weeks taught by Psychology/ Sociology

D. COR 103: Communication, Creativity, and Culture (3 credits)
   I. Communication: 5 weeks of foreign language/ Education
   II. Creativity: 5 weeks of creative and performing arts/literature
   III. Culture: 5 weeks taught by SLS/Women’s Gender and Sexuality/International Studies
E. COR 400: Capstone Course (2 Credits, prerequisites COR101-103 and 20 additional general education credits)
   
   I. Supervised thesis project combining multiple aspects of general education. Examples:
      
      i. Historical account of a scientific or creative work from a different culture.
      
      ii. Presentation of a scientific or creative work using a non-native language or presented in a non-native cultural context.
      
      iii. Focused projects at the intersection of arts, cultures, and approaches to knowledge that are externally funded.