**ADDENDUM TO THE**

**INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES 3 & 4 TASK FORCE REPORT**

**SUBMITTED TO THE**

**FACULTY COUNCIL STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

**DECEMBER 2, 2013**

**Endorsed by Faculty Council 28 April, 2014**

**Key Attributes for ILO #4: Characteristics of Responsible Citizenship**

**I. Feedback from Bridge week May 2013**

Input received from the Task Force sponsored session during the May 2013 Bridge week

meetings led to several substantive changes to the draft of a preamble and key attributes for

ILO #4 that were outlined in the April 25, 2013 report. A valuable addition to the preamble of

the key attributes was the inclusion of digital citizenship through social media. Given its

increasing usage, particularly as technological capabilities become increasingly sophisticated, the

Task Force felt this was an activity where the importance of responsible citizenship should be

highlighted. Other notable revisions included changing the Civic Engagement key attribute to

Community Engagement, and the Democratic Engagement key attribute to Political Engagement.

Additionally, the description under Political Engagement was changed to focus attention on the

activities, as well as the knowledge requirements, of political engagement

**II. Feedback from Faculty and Co-curricular Constituents**

The Task Force met on September 18, 2013 to finalize changes resulting from the May 2013

Bridge week session. A survey was then conducted in order to obtain additional input from the

Schools/Colleges and Division of Student Affairs. The survey instrument was identical to the

one used for ILO #3 and listed as Attachment C in the April 25, 2013 report. Moreover, a

special meeting for invited key university stakeholders was held on October 30, 2013.

Ancillary feedback was generally sparse. However, one suggestion, coming from a variety of

units, was to bring the Political Engagement attribute under the Community Engagement

heading. The Task Force engaged in extended discussions on merging the two attributes.

Task Force members asserted that it is possible to be engaged in the community without being

politically engaged and that political engagement by its nature involved an advocacy position.

Consequently, the decision was made to maintain the two as separate attributes.

**III. Task Force Recommendation**

The Task Force has finalized the recommended text of the selected key attributes for ILO #4,

and submits it to the Faculty Council Student Learning Assessment Committee for review and

discussion. The Task Force further recommends that the key attributes be submitted to

Faculty Council in the spring 2014 semester for approval/endorsement.

**Final Text of Selected Key Attributes for ILO #4**

**Characteristics of Responsible Citizenship**

In January 2012, the National Task Force on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement pronounced that we are in a “crucible moment” in our nation’s democratic history, in which we, as a society, must call on the “higher education community – its constituents and stakeholders – to embrace civic learning and democratic engagement as an undisputed educational priority for all of higher education, public and private, two-year and four year” (National Task Force on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement, 2012, p. 2). In this complex and ever-changing world, Widener students need to view themselves as global community members who demonstrate the attributes of responsible citizenship.

Widener University contributes to responsible citizenship through professional and liberal arts education and strives to develop the next generation of global citizens. The Widener Community challenges and empowers students to be responsible, thoughtful, and dedicated citizens who promote positive change. Examples of curricular and co-curricular experiences that promote these aims include service-learning courses, study abroad, domestic and international service and cultural immersion trips, political advocacy, digital citizenship through social media, and civic engagement programs.

In order to begin the process of assessing the Institutional LearningObjective #4 related to responsible citizenship, the Task Force offers as a starting point the following ideas regarding the attributes associated with responsible citizenship.

**ILO #4 Selected Key Attributes:**

* + **Ethical Perspective**

Students who demonstrate ethical perspectives recognize and evaluate ethical dilemmas. They are able to delineate between ethical and unethical behaviors and use such distinctions as opportunities to act in a principled and just manner.

* **Cultural Competence**

Students who demonstrate cultural competence exhibit the knowledge and skills to recognize, respect, and value the differences of others. They exhibit empathy and compassion, and demonstrate consideration of multiple perspectives when navigating the academic, social, professional, and global environment.

* **Community Engagement**

Students who demonstrate community engagement positively contribute to the welfare of their local and global community.

* **Political Engagement**

Students who demonstrate political engagement are informed citizens who are involved in activities such as advocacy, lobbying, and voting. They demonstrate an understanding of local, state, national and international political and legal systems.