

Academic Council Retreat

March 23, 2018

Essential Studies and General Education Reform

Regarding Essential Studies...

We'll go around the room one question at a time...

(1) **Yellow Hat (Optimism/Sunshine)**

What are the positive or exciting features of the model?

How could it benefit Oregon Tech?

(2) **Black Hat (Discernment/Practicality)**

What are the weaknesses or negative features of the model?

How could it be harmful to Oregon Tech?

(3) **White Hat (Information/Objectivity)**

What data and information should the Goal 4 Team have at its fingertips as they consider modifications to the model and propose a path forward?

Essential Studies Implementation

The model for general education reform proposed by GERTF contains a number of opportunities and a number of challenges for Oregon Tech.

Refinement, adjustments, and changes to the model will need to happen in order to move forward on implementation of general education reform.

To chart a course forward through the many strong feelings surrounding this work, we want to collect input from you today and move the conversation forward using an approach inspired by the “Six Thinking Hats” (Edward De Bono).

This approach asks participants to adopt one mindset (hat) at a time, setting aside the emotions and perspectives associated with the other hats until the appropriate point in the process. With the folks around you, brainstorm and write down your thoughts on each.

Yellow Hat (Optimistic/Sunshine/Looking for Possibilities)

- What are the positive or exciting features of the Essential Studies model?
- How could it be beneficial to Oregon Tech?

(Don't move on to the next “hat” before the rest of the room!)

Black Hat (Discernment/Practicality/Caution)

- What are the weaknesses or negative features of the Essential Studies model?
- How could it be harmful to Oregon Tech?

(Again, don't move on to the next "hat" before the rest of the room!)

White Hat (Information/Objectivity)

President Nagi's Goal 4 (of his 11 short-term strategic goals for Oregon Tech) surrounds planning for Essential Studies Implementation. A team is being assembled to carry this goal forward, and, during Summer 2018, will do focused work to make revisions to the GERTF Model.

An Impact Analysis Report is being assembled to enumerate the specific impacts of implementing the GERTF model. Even though modifications will be made, beginning the GERTF model honors the work that has already gone into it and gives us a concrete starting point from which to make data-driven decisions about which elements to implement, which elements to modify, etc.

- What information about implementing the GERTF model should this team have at its fingertips?
- What specific questions need to be answered to move towards implementation?
- What data do we already have that can inform refinements to the model? What data should we continue to gather as we move forward?