



RESOLUTION-POLICY

X	Action Item
	For Information Only

From: Dr. Eric Milou, Rowan University Senate President  
To: Dr. Ali Houshmand, Provost  
Date: 3/14/11  
RE: Senate Resolution 110311-1

**Senate Curriculum Committee and Technological Resources Committee  
Resolution to Endorse the Curriculum and Assessment Framework  
for Information and Technology Literacy (ITL)  
as Proposed by the Computer Competency Task Force**

**BACKGROUND:** Following a resolution approved by the University Senate, Rowan University suspended its Computer Competency exam and basic skills remediation requirement in Spring 2010. The exam was costly and outdated, and very few students evidenced a need for remediation because the competencies being assessed by the exam were low-level. The Provost formed a Computer Competency Task Force in Fall 2010 to investigate current needs and practices regarding computer competency and make recommendations regarding curriculum and assessment. Based on its findings, the Task Force expanded the domain of computer competency and renamed the new set of competencies Information and Technological Literacy (ITL). ITL, as its name reflects, encompasses all aspects of technology, not just the basic ability to use computers and applications assessed by the exam that was formerly in use, as well as information literacy as it relates to technology. Both technological competency and information literacy are recognized by our accrediting body, The Middle States Commission on Higher Education, as essential learning objectives. The Task Force identified a set of four Core Competencies and specified objectives for each. The Task Force also proposed a curriculum and assessment framework based on two levels of outcomes: General Education and Discipline-Specific. The “general education” outcomes would be delivered through a common curriculum that would likely include communication courses, Rowan Seminar, dedicated computer literacy courses, and/or co-curricular activities. These outcomes would be fairly standardized and the learning experiences fairly uniform. The “discipline-specific” outcomes would be more advanced and would be developed within the context of the student’s major through what Middle States refers to as a “distributed curriculum.” Although all students would be meeting the same key objectives, in this case the outcomes would be customized and the learning experiences much more diverse.

The Provost has now appointed a General Education Tactical Team to reform the Gen Ed curriculum and develop an assessment strategy, which will begin its work in Spring 2011. Although the specific forms this will take are unknown, we can expect that ITL will be one of the institution-wide learning objectives the tactical team focuses on. This resolution asks the University Senate to endorse the framework described in the Task Force report (see below) and to forward it as a recommendation to the General Education Tactical Team for consideration.

**WHEREAS**, the Computer Competency Task Force has recommended a curriculum and assessment framework for Information and Technological Literacy that reflects current needs and practices;

**WHEREAS**, Information and Technological Literacy is recognized by Middle States as an essential learning objective;

**WHEREAS**, Rowan University is undertaking a reform of its General Education curriculum and assessment;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the University Senate endorses this curriculum and assessment framework for Information and Technological Literacy and asks that it be taken under consideration by the General Education Tactical Team in its reform efforts.

Acceptance:

\_\_\_\_\_ I give my approval. I have forwarded this item to \_\_\_\_\_ for implementation.

\_\_\_\_\_ No approval is actually needed. I have forwarded this item to the following individual or office for informational purposes only:

\_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL REVIEW NEEDED:

\_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to give approval if the following modification(s) are made:

\_\_\_\_\_ Before I can approve or reject this item, I need clarification on the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ I have forwarded this item to the following individual or office for further consideration and consultation.

Rejection:

\_\_\_\_\_ I decline acceptance of this item for the following reason:

*Please Return this Copy to the University Senate President ~ Retain a Copy for Your Records*