Recommendation to Continue the Work of the General Education Task Force:
My unit supports the broad approach being taken by the General Education Task Force and Steering Committee to revise SUNY Potsdam's General Education / College Requirements.

Justification:
The Potsdam Pathways proposal v. 2.1 has received broad support from the 36-member General Education Task Force (see the attached survey results). Survey data suggest that Task Force members understand that specific descriptions for each component of the program still need to be developed, but that most units believe that with well-constructed learning outcomes, the components in the proposed program will adequately prepare our graduates and serve the mission of the college.

The Task Force and Steering Committee now seek the Faculty Senate's recommendation to continue our work. At this stage, we are presenting a framework for a General Education / College Requirements program, not specific proposals for particular courses[1].

With a favorable vote by the Faculty Senate, the Steering Committee will start this summer to develop designator descriptions, student learning outcomes, and assessment tools for several program components. We would present these to the GenEd Task Force and the faculty in Fall '17~~8~~ for comment and review. After considering feedback, we would revise and then again seek "approval to move forward" from the Faculty Senate.

The third stage will be to develop the implementation plan, which would include budget and staffing projections, impact statements, scheduling, and other information requested by the Faculty Senate and Provost. If the full proposal is deemed complete after this stage, we will seek final approval for the program by the Faculty Senate.

The Steering Committee continues to grapple with a number of questions. These include
1. how to achieve an appropriate amount of instruction and practice in writing, speaking and critical thinking for students in their freshman year and throughout the program;
2. how to acknowledge and emphasize key campus values such as sustainability, health/wellness, technological literacy, and the arts;

We would continue to address these issues and solicit faculty input as we develop designator descriptions and student learning outcomes.

Provost's Charge for the General Education Task Force (Spring 2016):
The specific purpose of the cross-disciplinary Task Force is to review our existing General Education requirements to determine both current strengths and areas of opportunity, and propose an innovative model (or models) that will clearly articulate the unique skills, knowledge, and experiences that we believe are critical for our SUNY Potsdam graduates. It is anticipated that central to the Task Force's planning will be the integration of high impact practices both within and external to the classroom as part of a range of ideas reflective of a contemporary and vibrant Liberal Education.

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[1] We are proposing several categories of courses (WAYS 100, WAYS 101, WAYS 301) but the specifics of individual courses still need to be developed.

The specific charge of the Task Force includes the following:

- Review current literature and case studies that focus on exemplars in General Education
- Determine best practices currently incorporated into our existing General Education requirements
- Identify any current programmatic barriers related to our existing General Education program (e.g., transferability, impact on retention or graduation, "siloing" of requirements, course availability)
- Consider avenues for including cross-representational student input throughout the planning process
- Draft a proposed framework for a new General Education program that considers the following:
    - Alignment with SUNY Potsdam's core values and mission
    - Alignment with SUNY system's competencies
    - Elimination of any hidden prerequisites
    - Ease of transferability from other institutions into SUNY Potsdam
    - Recognized best practices related to a contemporary Liberal Education
    - Incorporation of high impact practices, including applied learning
    - Incorporation of emerging/innovative technologies such as "badges"
    - Integration of interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary models
    - Creative uses of open source materials to enhance access and reduce costs for students
    - Budget neutrality
- Determine "next steps" and timeline for the Task Force and/or an Implementation Steering Committee