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**Subject:** Updates from USP Workgroup Co-chairs  
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Dear University Community,

Amidst all of the changes happening on campus, it's easy to lose track of the fact that your colleagues are hard at work planning for the long-term sustainability of the University Studies Program (USP). We thought you would appreciate a quick update on how that work is going so far.

Provost Martini charged the [USP Workgroup](#) with streamlining our general education program and making it more intelligible to different audiences, notably prospective students and their families. To that end, the USP Workgroup has put the USP under a microscope: what elements are working well and should be retained or enhanced, and what elements should be revised or eliminated? The full workgroup was divided into four smaller teams that are looking at specific aspects of general education more closely:

**Curricular Array Team:** How do our requirements compare to other Universities of Wisconsin schools? Is it easy for students to transfer in/out of our program? Where are the roadblocks in our program that make student progress difficult?

**First-Year Experience/Students in Transition Team:** How can we ensure that students—some of whom are arriving on campus with a lot of credits, either from high school or transfer institutions—have a solid introduction to UW Oshkosh? How can we rethink or reconfigure our existing first-year programming to be stronger and more sustainable?

**High-Impact Practices Team:** What HIPs are occurring across the curriculum – in USP and beyond? How can we ensure all students have access to HIPs? How can we increase opportunities for a wide variety of HIPs throughout the general education curriculum while not requiring additional resources?

**Assessment Team:** What are the mechanisms by which general education could be assessed in a more meaningful way? How can we build uniform learning outcomes across our general education curriculum?

These teams have been meeting weekly to discuss these issues, with the goal of making recommendations for changes to the USP by the end of the semester. This is a tight timeline, but already some initial recommendations are emerging that will make the program stronger, streamlined, and attractive to students. We have asked the smaller working teams to think about both short-term recommendations (i.e., actions we could take very soon to alleviate problems) and longer-term recommendations (structural and curricular changes to the program). We recognize that some longer-term

recommendations and implantation plans will need to be evaluated and aligned with the outcomes of the Academic Restructuring process. We meet as a full group several times a month, both virtually and in-person, to share ideas across groups.

We will communicate these recommendations at Division and College meetings in early May. In the meantime, should you have questions or concerns about this process, please feel free to email us at either [slagtert@uwosh.edu](mailto:slagtert@uwosh.edu) or [considij@uwosh.edu](mailto:considij@uwosh.edu) and we will be happy to listen and respond.

Best wishes,  
*Jennifer Considine & Tracy Slagter,*  
USP Workgroup Co-Chairs

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