

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

COMMITTEE: Academic Affairs

NO.: AAC 14-48

COMMITTEE DATE: April 29, 2014

BOARD DATE: May 6, 2014

POLICY ON CIVIC LEARNING

Adopted Unanimously

From pages 2-3:

Definition of Civic Learning

As the Study Group notes, establishing a common understanding of what we mean by civic learning is the essential first step in developing programmatic strategies to advance the goal of preparing students for engaged citizenship. Drawing on the work of the Study Group and key literature in the field, especially the report of the National Task Force on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement, *A Crucible Moment: College Learning and Democracy's Future* (2012), the Board adopts the following definition of Civic Learning for the purpose of the Vision Project:

Civic learning means acquisition of the knowledge, the intellectual skills and the applied competencies that citizens need for informed and effective participation in civic and democratic life; it also means acquiring an understanding of the social values that underlie democratic structures and practices.

- The knowledge component of civic learning includes an understanding of the United States, including its history and governmental traditions, other world societies, and the relationship(s) between and among these cultures and nations.
- The intellectual skills component refers to qualities of mind necessary to engage effectively in civic activities.
- The applied competencies component refers to the practical skills and capacities needed to engage effectively in civic activities.
- The values component refers to understanding the social and political values that are associated with democratic and civic institutions.

Given that the national discussion of civic learning as a core component of American higher education has not yet resulted in broad agreement about specific programmatic content, the development of detailed outcomes within each of the four components contained in this definition should be left to the individual campuses.