Resolution on the Collegiate Learning Assessment tool (CLA) as a method for assessing Critical Thinking (CT) in General Education.

Presented by the Council of Chairs on Monday, February 25th and passed by the College Senate on Monday, March 31st.

Whereas, the College Senate passed a motion on February 6, 2006 resolving to assess critical thinking learning outcomes of juniors and seniors in upper division General Education courses infused throughout the curriculum, using the rubrics and standards of the Discipline-Based Panel on Critical Thinking, and

Whereas, in the view of the Council of Chairs, the implementation of the 2006 resolution could present significant difficulties, including

   a) problems for some departments using the rubrics because the nature of their General Education courses don’t apply (i.e., Foreign Languages, Theater, etc.)

   b) uneven workload distribution across departments since some departments have more upper division General Education classes than others,

   c) increasing the workload of faculty involved in CT assessment

   d) weak statistical validity if only sampling juniors and seniors in a small number of upper division General Education courses, and

Whereas, since the 2006 resolution, a new instrument, known as the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA), has become available and is being considered by the SUNY General Education Assessment Review group (GEAR) as an acceptable measure for assessment of critical thinking for Strengthened Campus-Based Assessment.

Now, therefore let it be Resolved, that the SUNY College at Oneonta replace the critical thinking assessment method passed in 2006 with the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA).

Be if further Resolved, that an ad-hoc committee consisting of faculty, students, and the Associate Provost of Institutional Assessment and Effectiveness be established to administer the critical thinking assessment using the CLA. Additionally, this committee shall be charged with evaluating the effectiveness of the assessment and recommending any future modifications or actions regarding assessment of critical thinking on our campus.