Draft proposal:

The ad hoc committee on strengthened general education assessment proposes that:

1. A "CTS" (critical thinking skills) attribute be added to existing general education. This attribute ought to be attached to existing courses. Preferably and when appropriate the courses that meet this requirement should be courses that are part of the major and teach such skills within the context of the major. Selected courses that meet other General Education requirements might also bear this attribute if a significant part of the course is devoted to the teaching of critical thinking. Courses that have this attribute will be classes where: "Students will identify, analyze, and evaluate arguments as they occur in their own or other's work and will develop well-reasoned arguments." Any course with the CTS attribute should include incorporate the student learning outcomes as specified in the rubric adopted by GEAR. Because this is a skills attribute, it can be attached to courses that already have another general education attribute, such as HA2. In this way it will be similar to the existing WS2 and OS2 attributes.

2. A nationally normed measure of critical thinking, such as the ACT instrument that has been developed to meet this mandate or one of the existing critical thinking tests, shall be administered to students as part of the requirements for any class bearing the CTS attribute. Performance on this test will be considered as part of the grade for any class with the CTS attribute. This will be our means of meeting the requirements for assessing critical thinking as mandated by the trustees, the Provost and GEAR.