An Introduction to the College
for Faculty Assembly – January 17, 2012
John Mackey

Special Thanks to Sr. Associate Dean Robert Oresick
The mission of the College of General Studies is to provide students with a unique interdisciplinary two-year liberal arts core curriculum taught by a team of faculty with Ph.D.s in a cross section of disciplines.

CGS offers students the intellectual environment of a small premier liberal arts college during their first two years and an entree into one of the many degree-granting colleges at Boston University.
Some CGS Facts

-CGS is located at 871 Comm Ave.

-CGS employs 50 full-time faculty with Ph.D.s and seven professional advising staff

-CGS students are the second-largest group of incoming BU first-year students (approx. 700)

-Sophomores end their CGS careers by completing and defending a group interdisciplinary Capstone Project

-Incoming CGS first-year students are in the top 20% of their high school classes and have an average GPA of 3.3

-CGS students are approximately 65% female

-The CGS Writing and Academic Support center offers writing consultation, study skills strategies, time-management assistance, and similar services

-CGS Publishes a weekly Newsletter and a biannual alumni magazine called The Collegian
CGS Administration

-Linda Wells, Dean of the College (pictured)

-Natalie McKnight, Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Development and Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning

-Stacy Godnick, Sr. Associate Dean

-Robert Oresick, Sr. Associate Dean
Faculty and their Academic Divisions at CGS

CGS faculty hold the ranks of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Senior Lecturer and Lecturer. Some faculty are tenured or on tenure track, while others are on the non-tenure lecturer track. CGS faculty have distinguished records of teaching, university service, and publishing. They reside in four divisions:

- Division of Humanities (14 full-time faculty) – Adam Sweeting, Acting Chair
- Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (8 full-time faculty) – Peter Busher, Chair
- Division of Rhetoric (14 full-time faculty) – Matthew Parfitt, Chair
- Division of Social Sciences (14 full-time faculty) – Jay Corrin, Chair
CGS was founded in 1952 as a part of Boston University’s participation in the national movement to open the doors of higher education to more citizens. The college was organized around two foundational ideas:

1. **Teaching and Student Development**, which led to the innovative Team Structure

2. **General Education**, which led to the interdisciplinary Core Curriculum
The Team Structure
A Team typically consists of 85-100 students, divided into sections or labs of 20-25 students or Rhetoric sections of 10 to 15 students

Freshman Team:
- One Humanities Faculty Member
- One Social Sciences Faculty Member
- Two Rhetoric Faculty Members
- One full-time Academic Advisor

Sophomore Team:
- One Humanities Faculty Member
- One Social Sciences Faculty Member
- One Natural Sciences Faculty Member
- One full-time Academic Advisor
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Revised 08/30/11
Center for Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning (CITL)

-Impact: The Online Scholarly Journal of CITL

-Summer Institutes
  Summer 2012: Baseball – an Interdisciplinary Summer Institute

-Post-Doctoral and Graduate Teacher Training

-Academic Conferences focused on Interdisciplinary Teaching and Research (starting 2013)
Freshman Class Size

Freshmen:
fall 2009, n = 762
fall 2010 estimated 720
Since 2000, our freshmen high school GPA has been about a B+ (3.2)

Fall 2009, 6 freshmen entered CGS with a 4.0 high school GPA, 12 with a 3.9 and 26 with a 3.8.

Until the late '70s, our average freshman student had a 2.0 high school GPA.

From the late '70s through the mid '90s, our entering students had about a 2.5 GPA.

Fall 2009 high school GPA mean = 3.22

Fall, 2009: 6 freshmen entered CGS with a 4.0 high school GPA, 12 with a 3.9 and 26 with a 3.8.
Junior Year Retention

% of Entering Freshmen Enrolled as Juniors at Boston University

1952 - 1968 estimated from eligibility reports, and so are upper bounds of the actual retention.
Continuation from CGS

to CAS, COM, and SMG

number of students
Continuation from CGS to SED, SAR, SHA, MET, ENG, CFA, and UNI

SED became a transfer school, requiring a 2.6 GPA and Literacy Exam, effective Fall 1999.
Comparative Graduation Rates
Student Opportunities
Outside The Classrooms of 871 Comm Ave.

-Student Clubs and Organizations like FLAPS (Film Lovers and Philosophers Society), Science and Society Group, World Affairs Forum, the CGS Literary Magazine *Chimaerid*, CGS Student Government, and others

-CGS Humanities and Natural Sciences Study Abroad programs in London

-The CGS Social Sciences China Tour

-The Gilbane House on Bay State Road