

## **Defining General and Liberal Education**

### **An AGLS Project**

#### **Purpose**

To become the repository for information about and the destination for study of the nature of “general” and “liberal” education. To provide AGLS members access to ways that “general” and “liberal” education have been used in the past and how those ideas might relate in the future. Curriculum reform, for instance, often relies on a knowledge of how terms have been used in the past and how they are currently being used by 2-year and 4-year institutions, as well as by non-profit organizations, administrators, and politicians.

#### **Goals**

- ✓ To serve as an archive of historical definitions of “liberal arts,” “liberal education,” “the humanities,” and “general education,”
- ✓ To solicit analyses of those definitions collected,
- ✓ To solicit articles based on those analyses, showing historical trends, pedagogical possibilities, and intellectual trends.
- ✓ To construct a background bibliography from which definitions are taken, as well as sources whose primary purpose is to define one of the four key terms being studied.

#### **Process**

- ✓ Complete this summary and solicit comments from Executive Council, including suggestions for organizing this effort, and format for contributions to the site.
- ✓ Consult with Ball State computer scientists (e.g., Vinayak Tanksale) about most efficient means for soliciting, storing and accessing data submitted.
- ✓ Solicit nominations from Executive Council for editor positions.
- ✓ Establish link on “agls.org” to store and access collection of thoughts and articles.
- ✓ Send email to AGLS membership soliciting definitions and sources.
- ✓ Publicize this effort at conferences and with relevant journals and newspapers.
- ✓ Collect definitions until critical mass leads to analyses.
- ✓ Collect analyses until critical mass leads to further articles built around analyses.