Selecting and Announcing the Common Reading Text

Timeline of Events

October:

- Campus committees disseminate information about choosing the common reading text and inform their campuses of the process to suggest titles for review. This is commonly done through a Google form sent out to faculty through Senate leadership and to the rest of the campus community through a newsletter (may vary based on campus communication).

November:

- Campus committees hold a meeting open to the entire campus (faculty, staff, administration, students) to narrow down the list of suggested titles to the top three selections to take to the College-wide Committee.
- Each campus may determine these top three titles in a method that is fitting to the level of campus involvement and input from the community outside of the committee.
- At the November College-wide Committee meeting, campus committee leadership will share the top three choices.

December:

- At the College-wide meeting, campuses will present their top three choices and possibly a short bibliography of articles, author biographies, films and other media related to the title that could be used in classrooms or campus-wide to supplement the text.
- The College-wide Committee will meet before the end of the fall semester to narrow down the twelve campus selections to three to four final selections.
- Over the winter break, College-wide Committee members read the top selections.

January:

- At the College Colloquium, the Common Reading Panel will announce the top selections from the College-wide Committee.
- At President's request, College-wide Committee will present to the President's Council the previous semester's data and the chosen finalists.

End of January/Beginning of February:

- Active members of the College-Wide Committee, from all four campuses will vote to determine the final selection including Chairs, Co-chairs, founding members, (re)imaginings leadership, reading specialist. All voting members are expected to have maintained an active role throughout the previous year.
- Campus committees should announce the text selection to their committees through appropriate channels of communication.

February-April:

- Campus committees will plan co-curricular events on their campuses.
- College-wide Committee secures author visit.
- College-wide and campus committees compile lessons and other classroom activities related to the text and post on the public website for use by other faculty.
- Will add press release verbiage to the website and officially announce the new text at individual campuses and College-wide.

May:

- Campus activities and speakers put on College calendar and reported to Integrated Communications
- Exam copies of the Common Reading text distributed at Spring Convocation

Criteria for Selection of the Common Text

The Common Reading Committee believes that the texts chosen should meet the following criteria. The texts should:

• Be widely available and inexpensive, preferably paperback.

• Be ADA compliant, with preference for those texts with audiobook availability.

• Be readable by most students on campus, including students in developmental courses.

• Vary year to year in theme, content, genre, and authorship.

• Address important issues in the lives of students.

• Be applicable across the disciplines.

• Be of reasonable length.

• Be engaging and reasonably challenging to our students.

• Represent the values and academic standards of the college.