I will belatedly echo Larry’s thanks for your collegial and honest response. I sometimes worry, too, that the new model may not be enough if the teaching faculty don’t bring some energy and the institution doesn’t bring some resources to this effort. But I do think we have a few things afoot that might help to propel the general education change and the general education change might invigorate things in the other direction. Those changes afoot include the STEM education building, the efforts in both biology and engineering to build courses appropriate to non-majors in the first year, the larger issue of the engineering grand challenges as providing a framework for active and engaged education, and even our relatively solid and established vertical writing curriculum. I also think that a model change would provide an opportune point for offering teacher professional development and that would have to be part of the transition, or we do risk too little change for too large an effort. For that reason, I proposed to Larry that we write in a statement that if this model is passed the change can only happen if we have x, y, and z resources (professional development funding, in particular, but also a coordinator for applied communication).

Amy