Discovery Task Force - Oct. 26

Members present: Joe Mueller, Jane Peterson, Karen Robinson, Amelia Zurcher, Andrew Starsky, Rebecca Sanders, Lowell Barrington, Scott Reid, James Marten, Sarah Feldner, Monica Adya

1. Update on other task forces
2. Recapped theme discussion to date
   a. Still would like to involve chairs in deciding what themes might work for departments and how they can contribute
   b. Talked about role of committee as generating a process for theme selection and examples rather than the complete list of themes
   c. Temporarily set the question of themes aside to turn toward some of logistics parameters of tier
3. Discussion points about logistics parameters
   a. Decided that would like to move forward with a 4 course requirement
   b. Discussed thoughts on counting courses toward major
      i. Weighed one course (3 credits) vs. two courses (6 credits) overlap with major - tentatively deciding to work with 1 course that can count toward major
      ii. Noted that perhaps could count courses for second majors and minors
   c. Discussed the “humanistic/qualitative vs. scientific/quantitative split”
      i. Some concerns have been raised about this bifurcation from faculty (not mentioned often but concern was registered)
      ii. Committee agreed this would need to be discussed further
      iii. Limited view of some disciplines to use these labels
      iv. Want to focus on learning outcomes and focus on the idea of methodologies
   d. Question of how many courses should be in a theme -- question is if a limited list of courses makes it more of a true shared/core experience balanced with flexibility and choice for students
4. Decided to work in subgroups with each group developing a concrete idea of how tier might be structured