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A Resolution Regarding the Establishment of a General Education Council

Faculty Senate

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A RESOLUTION
regarding the establishment of a
GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Whereas the General Education Implementation Task Force (GEITF) was charged, in part, with recommending to the University Faculty Senate a scheme for the creation of a permanent body charged with duties similar to or exceeding its own; and

Whereas the GEITF has consulted with various stakeholders in the implementation of the General Education curriculum;

Now, therefore be it Resolved that there shall be established, as a joint affiliation between the University Faculty Senate and the Office of the Provost, a General Education Council (GEC), composed of faculty members, administrators and others; and

Be it further resolved that membership on the GEC shall not constitute membership in any other council or committee affiliated with either the University Faculty Senate or the Provost's Office; and

Be it further resolved that the charge of the GEC shall be to provide guidance and oversight to the General Education Program and Faculty Senate Standing Committees tasked with curriculum and program changes at Governors State University, including:

1. Policies and procedures for admissions criteria and placement into SmartStart or any successor programs;
2. Inclusion of courses into the General Education curriculum in full cooperation with appropriate Faculty Senate committees;
3. Facilitation of Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) course approvals;
4. Review of program outcomes and courses for General Education Student Learning Outcomes in full cooperation with appropriate Faculty Senate committees;
5. Assessment of General Education Student Learning Outcomes oversight;
6. Development of new faculty, especially those teaching First Year Seminar or any successor curricula;
7. Interaction with support services;
8. Facilitation of Learning Communities;
9. Organization of support and review initiatives, including but not limited to small grants and service learning projects;
10. Suggestion of changes or updates to General Education-related policies and procedures in full cooperation with appropriate Faculty Senate committees; and
11. Coordination of General Education program assessment; and

Be it further resolved that the composition of the GEC shall be as follows:

1. One faculty member per college and the library, to serve staggered two-year terms, elected in the same manner and at the same time as members of the standing committees of the University Faculty Senate;
2. One additional faculty member per Division within the College of Arts and Sciences, each appointed to staggered two-year terms by the respective Division Chair, with experience or expertise in teaching first- and second-year students;
3. The Provost of the University (or designee with faculty rank);
4. The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (or designee with faculty rank);
5. The Director of the University Honors Program (or designee with faculty rank);
6. The University IAI coordinator (or designee);
7. The Cohort advisor (or designee);
8. The Chairperson of the University Curriculum Committee (or designee); and
9. The President of the University Faculty Senate (or designee, with the recommendation that the Faculty Senate Vice President be so designated);
10. A Representative elected by and from CASLO; and

Be it further resolved that the GEC shall be led and chaired by a Director of General Education, with the active assistance of an Associate Director of General Education; that each shall receive non-teaching course release for such service that meets, but does not exceed, the maximum allowed for faculty to remain in the Union Bargaining Unit (presently 11 credit hour equivalent); that each shall receive summer compensation appropriate for the amount of time necessary to perform such duties as extend beyond the contract dates specified in the GSU-UPI Contract (presently June 7th to August 8th); that neither shall simultaneously receive course release time for program coordination or for service as an officer of the faculty senate or recognized union; and that each shall meet the following qualifications unless waived triennially by the Faculty Senate:

1. Tenured appointment in an academic division or academic department of the University; and
2. Membership in the Faculty Senate; and

Be it further resolved that the candidates for the Director and Associate Director shall apply for the respective positions after discussions with their Chairs and Deans; that a slate of candidates shall be reviewed by a search committee comprised of the membership of the General Education Council, and approved by the Faculty Senate; that the Provost shall appoint candidates from the slate to the respective positions; that terms for Director and Associate Director shall be for three years and may be re-elected to serve no more than one additional term; that in the case of a vacancy another search will commence; and that the GEITF may fill the role of the General Education Council if the Provost finds that appointments must be made prior to the initial constitution of the GEC; and

Be it further resolved that the Director of General Education shall hold non-voting membership on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee; that the Associate Director may attend meetings of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee on behalf of the Director; and that the Faculty Senate shall forthwith adjust its bylaws accordingly; and

