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Expansion of General Education Committee responsibilities to include oversight of the Core Curriculum

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Expansion of General Education Committee responsibilities to include oversight of the Core Curriculum

Submitted by Jake Simons/General Education Committee

1/18/2012

Motion:

Modify previously approved bylaws sections as indicated by underlined wording below…

SECTION X1. The responsibilities of the GENERAL EDUCATION & CORE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (GECC) shall be as follows:

a. recommend to the Faculty Senate policy and procedures concerning general education (GE) and core curriculum (CC);

b. propose, coordinate, and document the university’s GE and CC outcomes, i.e. those the faculty expects to be achieved by all of the university’s undergraduate students, regardless of their degree program;

c. coordinate with the Undergraduate Committee and staff agencies, as required, to identify the courses and other student experiences intended to achieve GE and CC outcomes;

d. plan, facilitate, and report the assessment of GE and CC outcomes;

e. recommend and monitor improvements, based on the results of GE and CC assessment;
f. address other specific questions in this area that may be requested by the Senate Executive Committee; and

g. report to the Librarian, the Senate Executive Committee, and the Senate as described in Article IV, Sections 3 and 11.

SECTION X2. Voting membership of the General Education & Core Curriculum Committee shall be composed of senators or senate alternates representing each college and the library, one per unit, appointed by the Senate Executive Committee and faculty members elected by and representing each college and the library, one per unit. Non-voting membership shall be composed of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs (or his/her delegate), who shall vote in the case of a tie among the voting members of the committee, the Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness (or his/her delegate), the Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management (or his/her delegate), an Advisor or Advising Coordinator designated by the Provost’s Office, and the SGA President or SGA Vice President of Academic Affairs. The chair shall be a senator elected by the voting members of the committee.

Rationale

1. Last semester, the Senate approved the establishment of a standing General Education Committee.

2. At the same time the GEC was being established, the Provost was exploring a similar need for oversight of the university’s Core Curriculum. However, the possibility of adding this to the current responsibilities of the Undergraduate Committee was found to be undesirable.

3. Expansion of the GEC to encompass oversight of the Core Curriculum is a far more promising alternative for the following reasons:

   a. Both GE and CC are formally mandated by external authorities, i.e. the University System of Georgia (USG) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

   b. The nature of the oversight responsibilities for the two areas is the same. i.e. The same things have to be done for both areas.
c. A single group with responsibility for both would be in the best position to clarify the distinction between the two.
d. A single group with responsibility for both would be in the best position to meaningfully differentiate the learning outcomes associated with each area.

e. There is a significant overlap in the courses that support the two sets of outcomes.
f. A single group would be in the best position to dovetail assessment efforts to minimize duplication.
g. Faculty and staff would have a single point-of-contact for both areas.

4. Immediate approval of this proposal will enable it to be in place when the committee first begins operation in FA12.

5. This proposal has the unanimous support of the current (administratively-appointed) GEC and the Provost's Office, and has been unofficially endorsed by the Chair of the Undergraduate Committee.

**SEC Response**

2/2/2012: The SEC decided to include this on the agenda.

**Senate Response**

Minutes 2/14/2012: Motion from the General Education Committee to Expand the Responsibilities of the General Education Committee to Include Oversight

Last semester the Senate approved establishing the GEC, and at the same time that it was being established we were going through a review of the core curriculum and there was a campus-wide core curriculum committee and the Provost simply asked that review of the core curriculum now be transferred to the GEC. Jake Simons said please say that it was faithfully submitted by him. Barilla moved approval of the request from the General Education Committee that its duties now include oversight of the core Curriculum.
Moderator Krug noted that the previous motion that we approved at the November meeting is the same as this one except that this one adds the word “Core Curriculum” or the abbreviation “CC” to the previous motion. Also, an advisor or advising coordinator designated by the Provost’s Office is added as a member.

Robert Costomiris (CLASS) asked for an explanation of the purview of the General Education Committee.

Moderator Krug quoted the motion that had been approved unanimously on November 16, 2011, with the addition of core curriculum and the additional individual.

Tim Teeter (CLASS) asked what the committee does with regard to the core curriculum. Simply monitor how well it’s doing, or does it suggest changes to the core curriculum to the Senate? That is, what does “oversight” mean in this case?

Bob Cook (CIT, Senate Parliamentarian) was on the Core Curriculum Committee and said this is documenting what the Core Curriculum Committee originally developed. The core curriculum has outcomes and each department or college that was in an area covered by the core curriculum identified their outcomes and then identified how the outcomes were assessed. The committee did not dictate to those departments what courses or what outcomes; they simply managed the fact that the departments did identify their outcomes and had an appropriate assessment and evaluation procedure which again was the responsibility of that department. This committee would serve that role on a continuing basis.

Moderator Krug called the GEC “a monitor.”

Teeter said, “The monitors are departmental assessment, in other words.”

Moderator Krug said originally there was some interest in giving these responsibilities to the Undergraduate Committee, but they already have a very full plate, so this was an effort to divide and to refine responsibilities.

Visitor Ellen Hendrix (CLASS) noted that “much of what’s in the core curriculum is mandated to us by the Board of Regents, so we don’t have the authority to say, yes, a course should be in the core, or no it shouldn’t. . . . a situation came up from . . . the College of Science and Technology about what was the process for changing a course, adding a course, and the process really hasn’t been clear so this is an attempt . . . to make it a little bit easier.”
Now, if you did want to suggest a substitution in an area where we have that right or that control, which I think, C-elective, D-3, would be a possibility, E-elective, are the only places where we would have that opportunity. But at least now we would know where such recommendations or suggestions would go.”

Ming Fang He (COE) asked what the relationship is between this committee and other curriculum committees from the colleges.

Moderator Krug noted this is a standing committee of the Faculty Senate, so this committee reports directly to the Senate. The college committees might share information with and report to the Undergraduate Committee and the Graduate Committee, and they may have to share information with this undergraduate curriculum committee also, but college committees don’t report here. This committee will.

The Motion was Approved