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Incorporation of the General Education Committee as a standing committee of the Senate

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Approved by the Senate: 11/16/2011

Not Approved by the Senate:

Approved by the President: 12/1/2011

Not Approved by the President:

Incorporation of the General Education Committee as a standing committee of the Senate

Submitted by Ellen Hendrix/General Education Committee

11/2/2011

Motion:

Insert the following new sections where most appropriate and renumber subsequent sections accordingly...

SECTION X1. The responsibilities of the GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (GEC) shall be as follows:

- a. recommend to the Faculty Senate policy and procedures concerning general education (GE);
- b. propose, coordinate, and document the university's GE 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 outcomes;
- d. plan, facilitate, and report the assessment of GE outcomes;
- e. recommend and monitor improvements, based on the results of GE 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 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), 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. The term General Education (GE) refers to the overall development we seek to foster in every student who completes an undergraduate degree program at our university. Although the core curriculum addresses a large portion of this development, GE is broader and may be facilitated by a range of learning experiences both in and outside the classroom.

2. The Board of Regents (BOR) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) require the university to conduct on-going processes that:

a. Review the intended learning outcomes of its academic programs.

b. Assess the extent to which those outcomes are being achieved.

c. Provide evidence of improvement that is based on assessment results.

d. Are developed and implemented by/with the faculty.

[BORPM § 2.9, 3.3, and 3.6.3; SACS/COC Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1]

3. The faculty has primary responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of curriculum. [GSU Statutes Art. IV §]

2 , SACS/COC Comprehensive Standard 3.4.10]

4. Although a great deal of work has been done in the past, it has been inconsistent and typically resulted from ad hoc initiatives, triggered by administrative efforts to meet external reporting requirements. The faculty currently has no standard, sustainable processes to satisfy its GE responsibilities.

5. During SP11, the Acting Provost formed a General Education Committee, composed of members nominated by each college's dean. The current Provost and President have expressed their belief in the importance of this committee's work, their support for its long-term continuation, and their recognition of the need for faculty ownership.

6. Approval of this motion is necessary to establish and maintain faculty-driven management of General Education as part of our normal business processes.

Senate Response:

Minutes: 11/16/2011: Provost's Report:

1. General Education is undergoing complete review by a faculty team led by Dr. Jake Simons and supported by Academic Affairs. What must a well educated citizen know? This is an outcomes based approach, and assessment of success in achieving these outcomes has been engineered in at the beginning. Faculty will be fully engaged in shaping the desired outcomes, and designing the curricular as well as extracurricular experiences needed to achieve the outcomes. NOTE: The team insisted that the administration follow through, and not commence the initiative and then allow it to drop once reaccreditation or some other milestone has been secured. In addition, the team asked that general education redesign be in the hands of faculty, and consequently President Keel and Provost Moore are committed to respecting faculty leadership. Toward that end, it is hoped that the General Committee will become a standing committee of the Senate.

8. A Motion from the General Education Committee to Include this Committee as a Standing Committee: Lowell Mooney (COBA).

Historically, as we prepare for a SACS visit we revisit the core curriculum and Gen Ed requirements via an ad hoc committee. This motion seeks to have this be an ongoing process. Also, ad hoc committee recommendations for changes have had to come through the overworked Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. This General Education Committee could bring recommendations straight to the Senate. Mooney read the Motion:

“ Voting membership of the General Education 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), 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.”

The motion was Approved by the required two-thirds majority for a Bylaws change.