

Resolution on Recommendations Report from GE Governance Task Force on Formation of General Education Council

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate of CSUN acknowledges receipt of the “Recommendations Report from GE Governance Task Force on Formation of General Education Council” dated January 2010 and thanks the faculty on that Task Force for the timely report and its efforts to insure broad consultation with the University community during its deliberations, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate of CSUN approves the recommendations of the Task Force to create a General Education Council, initially as a subcommittee of EPC, with the authority, oversight and membership structure specified in the Task Force report, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate of CSUN recommends that steps be taken to elect the membership of the General Education Council so the Council may convene at the start of the 2010-2011 academic year, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate of CSUN approves the recommendation that during 2012-2013 a task force be convened to review the operations of the General Education Council and be charged with proposing policy regarding the structure of the council and determine whether or not it should become a standing committee of the Faculty Senate, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate of CSUN endorses the Task Force recommendation that every effort should be made to create a Program Director of GE position that would be held by a member of the faculty and recommends that every effort be made to have this position filled by the start of the 2010-2011 academic year.

RATIONALE: Since fall 2006 when the work of CSUN’s General Education Task Force concluded, the Educational Policies Committee (EPC) of the Faculty Senate has taken on the additional responsibilities of GE course recertification, and GE program review and assessment. In spring 2009 a GE Governance Task Force was established by the Faculty Senate to explore if the handling of General Education curriculum and recertification efforts should be moved from EPC to a separate committee. This resolution endorses the implementation of the recommendations of the GE Governance Task Force report to create the committee to be known as the General Education Council.

**Recommendations Report from
GE Governance Task Force on Formation of General Education Council
January 2010**

Presented to EPC (Sept. 16, 2009), Senate Executive Committee (Jan. 28, 2010) and Faculty Senate (Feb. 11, 2010)

Background

In September 2009, Faculty Senate endorsed the recommendation of the GE Governance Task Force to create a GE Council and asked the Task Force to consult with the campus community about the structure, membership, and authority of the Council. During the Fall 2009 semester, members of the Task Force visited the academic councils of all colleges and the Oviatt Library, as well as the Council of Chairs. An Open Forum, advertised to all faculty members, was held on December 10 after the Faculty Senate meeting. Feedback from the campus community was positive and constructive, and there was unanimous consensus to go forward with formation of the GE Council. The following recommendations of the Task Force incorporate the input received from the campus community.

Committee Structure

The GE Council should first be established as a sub-committee of EPC because it will foster a close working relationship between EPC and the Council so that initial issues of territorial ambiguity can be worked out. The Task Force further recommends after two full years of operation of the new GE Council (GEC), a committee designated by Faculty Senate should evaluate the function of GEC to determine if it should be changed to a standing committee and/or if other changes to its structure are necessary.

Authority and Oversight

The GE Council should have authority to:

1. Review and approve GE Curriculum (new courses and course modifications)
2. Review and approve curriculum-related criteria for course placement in the GE program
3. Review and recommend to EPC policies related to the GE program
4. Establish procedure for and then conduct GE recertification
5. Establish procedure for and then conduct review of GE SLOs
6. Oversee the process and completion of GE program review
7. Oversee the process and completion of the annual assessment cycle for the GE program

The immediate issue of concern in the division of authority between EPC and GEC is curriculum review. Non-GE courses (new courses and course modifications) that provide core and elective credit in any academic major will be reviewed only by EPC. GE courses (new courses and course modifications) that cannot be used for core or elective credit in any academic major will be reviewed only by GEC. However, those courses used for both GE and major credit require that a review process be developed by EPC. EPC will do this in Spring 2010 so that the process is ready before the GE Council convenes.

Committee Membership

The GEC should have the following membership that includes 13 voting members and 2 non-voting *ex officio* members:

- 9 one from each academic college and the Oviatt
 - 3 faculty members elected by Faculty Senate, including at least one lecturer and with the restriction that there are no more than 2 members from any one college on the Council
 - 1 undergraduate student representative from Associated Students
- Non-voting *ex-officio* member: Director of GE
Non-voting *ex-officio* member: AVP Undergraduate Studies or designee

Each college will elect or select its member according to its established practice set forth in its by-laws. The initial membership will be elected to terms of different lengths (1 to 3 years) so that membership will always include new and experienced members.

Program Director of GE

The position of Program Director of GE is independent of the creation of the GEC. However, the campus community strongly supports creation of this position in order to move forward the work of the GE Council, particularly in the areas of GE assessment and program review. The position is to be filled by a faculty member on reassigned time. The number of units to be reassigned will be determined by Academic Affairs. The Task Force recommends that the position be a minimum of half time for the first year and that the workload of the position be evaluated at the end of this year to determine if the level of reassigned time is appropriate. It is strongly urged that the position be created in coordination with creation of the GEC. Because of the severe budget restrictions for 2010-2011, if absolutely necessary the GEC could go forward without the position of Program Director of GE being filled, with the caveat that the position will be created and filled as soon as budgetary constraints allow.

The Program Director of GE will be responsible for administering the practices approved by the GEC for GE assessment and program review. In turn, the Director will provide input to the GEC on the functioning of the practices and make suggestions for their improvement. The applications for the position of Director will be reviewed by a search and screen committee established by the Associate Vice President of Undergraduate Studies. Based on recommendations of the committee, the AVP of Undergraduate Studies will appoint a Program Director of GE and include him or her as part of the Undergraduate Studies team of directors. In order to facilitate experience and continuity in performing the duties of the Director, a term of three years is suggested, subject to performance evaluations of the duties of the position.