



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

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UNIVERSITY SENATE

Date: March 7, 2011

To: Marc Pound
Chair, Elections, Representation, & Governance (ERG) Committee

From: Laura Rosenthal
Chair, Senate CORE Committee

Subject: Transition of the Senate CORE Committee
Senate Doc. No. 10-11-13

The Senate passed the proposal entitled, *Transforming General Education at the University of Maryland* (Senate Doc#: 09-10-34) at its meeting on April 8, 2010. In that plan, the General Education Task Force identified its vision for the evolution of the Senate's CORE Committee as follows:

“The Task Force is suggesting a rebalancing of the relationship between the Dean for Undergraduate Studies and the General Education (previously CORE) Committee of the University Senate. Rather than employing the Senate Committee for individual course approvals, the Task Force envisions the role of a Senate-elected Committee to be one that provides broad oversight and supervision over the entire General Education program evaluating trends, reviewing learning outcomes and their assessments (where standards for learning outcomes must be established), and maintaining the overall balance of courses, for example, in the I-series (where targets for each College and School have to be established) and in other Distributive Studies categories.”

As a result, the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) requested that the CORE Committee review its future role with General Education. The SEC specifically asked us to re-define our committee's charge, suggest changes to our membership, suggest a new name for the committee, and consult with ERG to make sure that our recommendations are appropriate for the Senate Bylaws.

After discussing our vision for the new General Education Committee for over the past five months, the CORE Committee has created a final draft of our recommended committee specifications (which include the new name, charge, and membership) for the Senate Bylaws. These specifications are attached to this memo. We respectfully request that the ERG Committee review and consider our suggestions. If you approve of the specifications, we would like to receive a memo of endorsement from ERG, so that we can submit it with our final report and recommendations to the SEC.

The CORE Committee created these specifications in order to better align the committee with the spirit of the new General Education program. Because General Education strives to provide students with a broad exposure to different disciplines, we created a

membership that will invite faculty representation from all colleges and schools. We also increased the number of undergraduate student members while limiting the overall student representation to the undergraduate population, since they are the main population served by the General Education program. We also added an ex-officio member from College Park Scholars, since College Park Scholars is currently working to effectively align its curricula with the new General Education requirements. Because the Honors College and College Park Scholars work with approximately half of the incoming freshman classes, and because Scholars is embracing the new General Education course designations, an argument can be made for both of the directors to sit on the new Senate General Education Committee.

You will also notice that we are recommending that the quorum of the new General Education Committee be set at a majority of voting members, which will equal 11. By striking the line about the current quorum number, the committee will follow the practice now written into the Bylaws (5.3.c) which says, "Unless a quorum number is specified in the membership description of a committee, the quorum shall be a majority of voting members of the committee." While the new total membership number, 20, would potentially call for a quorum of 9 members if it had been in existence when ERG reviewed quorum calculations earlier this year, the CORE Committee has decided that a majority of voting members is more appropriate for the General Education Committee, mainly because it will ensure that no decision can be made with faculty members in the minority of voters present at a committee meeting.

We hope that you will find our suggested specifications acceptable, and we look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for adding this item to the agenda of your March 9, 2011 meeting. If you have any questions, please contact me at lrosent1@umd.edu or x51408 or Chelsea Benincasa in the Senate Office (chelseab@umd.edu or x58470).

Attachments

LR:cb

Recommended Committee Specifications – As Outlined in the Bylaws of the University Senate

6.4 General Education Committee:

6.4.a Membership: The committee shall consist of:

- (1) A presiding officer, who is a member of the faculty and is appointed by the chair of the Senate;
- (2) Twelve (12) faculty members consisting of:
 - (a) One (1) representative from each of the following entities: the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation; the College of Arts and Humanities; the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences; the Robert H. Smith School of Business and Management; the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences; the College of Education; the A. James Clark School of Engineering; the College of Information Studies; the Philip Merrill College of Journalism; the School of Public Health; and the School of Public Policy;
- (3) Three (3) undergraduate student representatives (from three (3) different entities listed in 6.4.a(2)(a) above).
- (4) The Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean for Undergraduate Studies, the Director of the Honors College, and the Executive Director of College Park Scholars (or their designees), and the Associate Dean for General Education shall serve as voting ex officio members.

6.4.b Charge:

- (1) To facilitate the ongoing Core Liberal Arts and Sciences Program for students under the Core requirements, the General Education Committee shall exercise continuing supervisory authority and general oversight of the Core Liberal Arts and Sciences Program at the University of Maryland consistent with its authority as mandated by the report on undergraduate education entitled *Promises to Keep: The College Park Plan for Undergraduate Education* (Pease Report), adopted by the College Park Senate in March 1988 and in coordination with the General Education Program at the University of Maryland as described in the 2010 document *Transforming General Education at the University of Maryland* and the *General Education Implementation Plan* approved by the University Senate in February 2011. It shall also make periodic reports to the Senate on its evaluation of the effectiveness of the program and make any recommendations for revision or improvements it deems appropriate
- (2) The General Education Committee shall exercise broad oversight and supervision of the General Education Program at the University of Maryland as described in the 2010 document *Transforming General Education at the University of Maryland*. The General Education Committee shall review and

make recommendations to the Senate and the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean for Undergraduate Studies concerning the General Education Program, its requirements and its vision, as it deems appropriate, especially with regard to evaluating trends, reviewing learning outcomes, and maintaining the balance of courses in the General Education categories.

6.4.c The committee may, under the provisions of Section 5.7, establish subcommittees for each major segment of its work. A member of the General Education Committee shall serve as the presiding officer of each subcommittee. The other members may, but need not, be members of the General Education Committee as the General Education Committee and the Senate Executive Committee deem appropriate.

6.4.d Relation of the General Education Committee to the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean for Undergraduate Studies:

(1) The Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean for Undergraduate Studies will prepare an annual report on the status of the General Education Program and will send the report to the General Education Committee by September 1.

(2) The Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean for Undergraduate Studies will meet with the General Education Committee as needed to discuss or update the report. Topics will include but not be limited to: the membership and ongoing work of the General Education Faculty Boards; the proposal and approval process for General Education courses; the learning outcomes for the different course categories; where additional courses or rebalancing may be needed; trends and developments that may impact the General Education Program; and informational resources for students, faculty, and advisors about the General Education Program.

(3) The committee shall be informed by the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean for Undergraduate Studies of modifications in proposal or review processes, the disposition of the recommendations from the committee, and any other changes regarding the implementation of the General Education Program as specifically delegated to that office.

Recommended Committee Specifications (with tracked changes)

6.4 General Education ~~Core Liberal Arts and Sciences Program (CORE)~~ Committee:

6.4.a Membership: The committee shall consist of:

- (1) A presiding officer, who is a member of the faculty and is appointed by the chair of the Senate ~~from the faculty representatives on the committee;~~
- (2) ~~Ten (10)~~ Twelve (12) faculty members consisting of:
 - (a) One (1) representative from each of the following entities: the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation; the College of Arts and Humanities; the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences; the Robert H. Smith School of Business and Management; the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences; the College of Education; the A. James Clark School of Engineering; the College of Information Studies; the Philip Merrill College of Journalism; the School of Public Health; and the School of Public Policy;

~~Seven (7) faculty representatives from the Arts and Sciences colleges: Arts and Humanities; Behavioral and Social Sciences; Computer, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences; and Chemical and Life Sciences, provided each college has at least one (1) representative and no college has more than two (2) representatives;~~
 - (b) ~~Three (3) faculty representatives rotated among the following colleges: Education; Architecture, Planning, and Preservation; the Robert H. Smith School of Business and Management; the School of Public Health; Agriculture and Natural Resources; the Philip Merrill College of Journalism; and the A. James Clark School of Engineering, provided no college has more than one (1) representative;~~
- (3) ~~And two (2) student representatives.~~ Three (3) undergraduate student representatives (from three (3) different entities listed in 6.4.a(2) above).
- (4) The Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean for ~~of~~ Undergraduate Studies, and the Director of the Honors College and the Executive Director of College Park Scholars ~~University Honors Program (or their designees),~~ and the Associate Dean for General Education ~~Director of CORE Planning and Implementation~~ shall serve as voting ex officio members.

6.4.b ~~Quorum: A quorum of the CORE Committee shall be eight (8) voting members.~~

6.4.eb Charge:

- (1) To facilitate the ongoing Core Liberal Arts and Sciences Program for students under the CORE requirements, ~~The~~ General Education ~~e~~Committee shall exercise continuing supervisory authority and general oversight of the Core Liberal Arts and Sciences Program at the University of Maryland UMCP, ~~consistent with~~ its authority includes, ~~but is not limited to,~~ evaluation, selection, and oversight of courses which satisfy fundamental studies,

~~distributive studies, advanced studies, cultural diversity, capstone, and freshman seminar requirements~~ as mandated by the report on undergraduate education entitled *Promises to Keep: The College Park Plan for Undergraduate Education* (Pease Report), adopted by the College Park Senate in March 1988 and in coordination with the General Education Program at the University of Maryland as described in the 2010 document *Transforming General Education at the University of Maryland* and the *General Education Implementation Plan* approved by the University Senate in February 2011. It shall also make periodic reports to the Senate on its evaluation of the effectiveness of the program and make any recommendations for revision or improvements it deems appropriate.

(2) The General Education Committee shall exercise broad oversight and supervision of the General Education Program at the University of Maryland as described in the 2010 document *Transforming General Education at the University of Maryland*. The General Education Committee shall review and make recommendations to the Senate and the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean for Undergraduate Studies concerning the General Education Program, its requirements and its vision, as it deems appropriate, especially with regard to evaluating trends, reviewing learning outcomes, and maintaining the balance of courses in the General Education categories.

6.4.d~~c~~ The committee ~~shall~~ may, under the provisions of Section 5.7, establish subcommittees for each major segment of its work. A member of the ~~CORE~~ General Education Committee shall serve as the presiding officer of each subcommittee. The other members may, but need not, be members of the ~~CORE~~ General Education Committee as the ~~CORE~~ General Education Committee and the Senate Executive Committee deem appropriate.

6.4.d Relation of the General Education Committee to the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean for Undergraduate Studies:

(1) The Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean for Undergraduate Studies will prepare an annual report on the status of the General Education Program and will send the report to the General Education Committee by September 1.

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(3) The committee shall be informed by the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean for Undergraduate Studies of modifications in proposal or review processes, the disposition of the recommendations from the committee, and any other changes regarding the implementation of the General Education Program as specifically delegated to that office.