

November 2, 2021

Ellen D. Williams
Chair, University Senate
1111 Institute for Physical Science & Tech
8108 Regents Drive
University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-4111

Dear Senate Chair Williams,

I am writing on behalf of the Educational Affairs Committee to request an extension for its review of the Revisions to the General Education Diversity Requirement (Senate Document #20-21-10) charge. Currently, the committee's report is due on November 5, 2021. I respectfully request an extension for the committee's review of this charge until February 4, 2022.

The committee has been working diligently since it received the charge from the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) on December 18, 2020. During the Spring 2021 semester, the committee met with several of the offices listed in the charge and completed the consultations at its October 13, 2021 meeting when it met with the General Education Diversity Faculty Board.

While the committee has been reviewing the recommendations of the Diversity Education Task Force (DETF) in its November 2020 report, the proposed revisions related to the learning outcomes continued to be refined by the DETF throughout the Spring 2021 semester. Additionally, the DETF issued an updated report in late September 2021. The report expands the discussion of the current campus diversity climate and campus concerns and considerations, and provides background information on student enrollments in the two existing diversity education course categories. The updated report also includes revised learning outcomes, which were shared with the committee in May 2021, and revises the recommendation related to an optional learning outcome for both course categories, changing it from "demonstrating empathy" to "perspective-taking." The committee is requesting additional time to review these changes to the recommendations and proposed learning outcomes.

Given the changes in the DETF General Education diversity requirement recommendations since the initial report in November 2020 and the impact that revising the diversity requirement will have on the campus community, the committee feels it would be beneficial to get feedback from Senators before making its recommendations and report. An extension would allow the committee to make a presentation to the Senate on its preliminary directions at the December 9, 2021 Senate meeting before finalizing its recommendations.

Based upon the considerations expressed above, I respectfully request an extension until February 4, 2022, for the Educational Affairs Committee to submit its report on the proposed

revisions to the General Education diversity education requirement. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ross J. Salawitch".

Ross J. Salawitch
Chair, Educational Affairs Committee