

2012-07

Resolution Concerning Minimum General Education Competencies

Approved by the UNC Faculty Assembly

November 30, 2012

Whereas, the ability to transfer core courses across the UNC system campuses is a goal of the UNC General Administration; and

Whereas, a set of minimal competencies for UNC campus General Education programs could facilitate this goal; and

Whereas, the General Education programs currently in place on UNC campus vary in detail, but contain many common core competencies, including critical thinking and quantitative analysis, scientific inquiry, communication skills, historical and social perspective, and human expression and creativity; and

Whereas, the campuses of the UNC System have varied missions designed to serve the needs of our state and their regions; and

Whereas, UNC does not receive accreditation as a system, but each institution must independently meet the SACS Standards for Accreditation; and

Whereas, any transferred credit must meet transfer-level quality SACS accreditation standards and the evaluation of transfer quality can only be made by the faculty; and

Whereas, the content and delivery of General Education courses, as well as the design of General Education programs, on UNC campuses is primarily a faculty responsibility; and

Whereas, UNC Policy 400.1 states that "Campuses shall continue to have the lead role in identifying academic program needs and in formulating proposals to meet those needs," and "In these processes, faculty expertise is essential for sound academic decision making at the campus and system levels;"

Therefore, Be It Resolved That the UNC Faculty Assembly supports the *Faculty Advisory Council's* recommendation for the formation of a state-wide General Education Council charged to undertake a comprehensive review of existing General Education programs across all sixteen UNC undergraduate degree-awarding institutions, provided that this new General Education Council is made up of full-time UNC faculty members (at least one from each campus), appointed jointly by President Ross and the UNC Faculty Assembly; and

Be It Further Resolved That the General Education Council's review will form the basis for any system-wide effort to determine a set of common General Education competencies that will strengthen and streamline learning outcomes across the system; and

Be It Further Resolved That as per UNC Policy 400.1 any General Education Program common competences must be approved on each campus by the appropriate faculty curriculum-approval processes and the faculty on each campus (while ensuring that any approved common competencies are met) shall continue to exercise control over both the specific content of their General Education courses and the format of their General Education program; and

Be It Further Resolved That faculty engagement be structured in such a manner so as to ensure that SACS and individual program accreditation standards are met, and

Be It Further Resolved That any General Education Program common competences complement and not restrict the varied missions of the constituent campuses of the UNC System; and

Be It Further Resolved That, in addition to normal campus-based General Education assessments, any common system-wide General Educational competencies must be evaluated and assessed periodically by an interdisciplinary group of faculty using appropriate shared governance structures and procedures; and

Be It Further Resolved That at such time as UNC minimum core competencies are established, a system-level Equivalency website shall be created and maintained to ensure the campus-to-campus transfer process as seamless and transparent as possible; and

Be It Further Resolved That, once established, this Equivalency website shall be expanded to include courses from the NC Community College system (as they are approved by disciplinary faculty committees as per the CAA).