

**University Senate of the University at Albany
Resolution on General Education**

Whereas the SUNY Board of Trustees (BOT), at its January 19, 2010, meeting approved an amendment to Resolution # 98-241 concerning the SUNY General Education requirements, to be effective Fall 2010; and

Whereas one of the principal intents of the amendment is to facilitate the mobility of students from one SUNY institution to another; and

Whereas the amended BOT resolution does not limit campuses in establishing their own local Gen Ed requirements, as long as those local requirements meet the SUNY minimum; and

Whereas Interim SUNY Provost Lavallee encouraged campuses to review their existing Gen Ed requirements in light of the changes in SUNY requirements to facilitate student mobility; and

Whereas on February 8, 2010 the UAlbany Senate established a General Education Task Force to review the current UAlbany General Education Program in light of the new BOT requirements; and

Whereas the Task Force was charged with making recommendations for ways to utilize the new requirements to improve the current UAlbany General Education Program; and

Whereas on December 13, 2010 the Task Force submitted their report to the Senate; and

Whereas on January 31, 2011 the Undergraduate Academic Council was charged with reviewing the Task Force recommendations, soliciting responses and feedback about the recommendations from UAlbany Schools and Colleges, and developing a General Education proposal; and

Whereas on February 14, 2011 the UAlbany Senate voted against Senate Bill 1011-04 which would have adopted the SUNY BOT minimum requirements as the UAlbany Interim General Education Program; and

Whereas by March 9, 2011 the Undergraduate Academic Council received feedback from all but three Schools and Colleges; and

Whereas on April 20, 2011 the UAC unanimously endorsed a proposal which adheres to the principles set forth by the General Education Task Force, addresses the concerns and suggestions of the Schools and Colleges, and creates a General Education Program which is unique to the University at Albany and representative of a sound academic experience which is both streamlined and flexible.

Be it Resolved to create a General Education Advisory Board consistent with the attached rationale and composed of:

- a) The Associate Dean for General Education,
- b) A representative from the Undergraduate Academic Council,
- c) A minimum of two and a maximum of five undergraduate students,
- d) An ex-officio non-voting representative of the CAS Dean's Office,
- e) The Director of the Advisement Services Center as an ex-officio non-voting member,
- f) A minimum of 15 full or part-time teaching/adjunct faculty members with substantial experience in teaching General Education courses and with a demonstrated commitment to the evolving aims of General Education. The full membership should be selected so as to reflect, to the extent possible, proportionality consistent with each school's/college's contribution in delivering the general education curriculum, and

Be it Resolved that, each School and College will be encouraged to submit nominations of appropriate faculty to serve on the Advisory Board. Once nominations have been submitted, the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, in consultation with the Provost and the Chair of the Undergraduate Academic Council, will invite members to join the Advisory Board. Additionally, the Associate Dean for General Education will serve as Chair of the Advisory Board.

Be it Resolved to charge the Advisory Board to:

- a) work with UAC to collect data regarding the proposed General Education Program;
- b) work with all constituencies to explore ways to develop the "Challenges for the Twenty-First Century" courses in a way that recognizes the varying contributions different departments and programs can make to the General Education program overall;
- c) work with UAC, Departments and the General Education Assessment Committee to explore ways to develop an assessment mechanism by which Major programs can demonstrate that they meet the Oral Discourse, Advanced Writing, Critical Thinking, and Information Literacy requirements within the framework of the Major.
- d) work with UAC and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education to explore ways to develop a Freshman Writing Program which would meet the Freshman Writing requirement;
- e) work with UAC and constituencies to examine the implications for Schools/Colleges and Departments if B, C, and D above were to be implemented.

Be it Resolved that, similar to the Honors College Governing Board, the General Education Advisory Board will not be a policy making body. Instead, any recommendations from the General Education Advisory Board will be presented to the Undergraduate Academic Council and thereafter subject to UAC review and approval.

Be it Resolved that the Undergraduate Academic Council will forward the General Education proposal with complete rationale and data to the UPPC early within the fall 2011 semester.

Be it Resolved that the UAlbany Senate will discuss and vote on the General Education Proposal at a Senate meeting as soon as possible after UPPC review.

Be it Resolved that until such time as a new General Education Program is approved by the University at Albany Senate, the current General Education Program will remain in place.