

February 5, 2010

TO: Michael Range, Chair, University Senate  
FROM: Eric Lifshin, Chair, Governance Council  
SUBJECT: Gen Ed Task Force

The Governance Council met today to discuss the formation of a task force to address issues raised by the recently approved amendment concerning General Education requirements that was passed by the SUNY Board of Trustees last month. Specifically, members of the Governance Council deliberated the request made by the Senate Executive Committee to identify the specific charges of the task force, including a time table; composition of the task force; and individuals to serve on the task force.

The Governance Council discussed at length the need for an immediate response that will allow incoming freshman for the 2010 fall semester to make appropriate course selections, and the need to form an ad hoc committee outside of the existing governance structure. On the latter point, members of the Governance Council strongly felt that the issues would best be addressed by the Undergraduate Academic Council (UAC) and its sub-committee, the Committee on General Education. While the Governance Council agreed that a thorough and lengthy review of University Gen Ed requirements was in order, interim, short term recommendations brought forth by UAC and its sub-committee are needed to address the immediate deadline for incoming freshman. With that in mind, Governance Council made the following recommendations for a task force that will function under the General Education Committee of the UAC:

Elga Wulfert, CAS Dean  
Heidi Andrade, CAA Chair  
Joan Savitt, UAC Chair  
John Delano, UPPC Chair  
Martin Hildebrand, UAC Member  
Trudi Jacobson, University Libraries  
Vivien Ng, Women's Studies  
Patrick Nold, History  
Martha Rozett, English  
Morton Schoolman, Political Science  
Michael Carpenter, CNSE  
Richard Collier, CNSE

The Governance Council felt that with the recommendation of these individuals, sufficient representation of key constituencies would be met.