



Office of the Faculty Senate Chair

January 16, 2013

Kenneth R. Bain, Ph.D
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Actions or Follow-up Related to Unanimous Motions of the Faculty Senate

Dear Provost Bain:

At the December 11, 2012 and January 8, 2013 Faculty Senate Meetings, the Senate has addressed concerns, and identified problems occurring and related to the new General Education requirements. The courses are posing problems for some programs, and their students, as faculty function in their advisor's role. Further, the courses present program conflicts in some of the professional programs' curricula. Since this has been such a problem for many programs, and stands as a barrier for resolving the General Education issues between the Flagship and the Community College, **the Academic Standards, Policy, and Procedures Committee (ASPPC) is submitting (with unanimous approval from the full body) the following recommendations:**

1. That the University-wide requirements that were approved during Middle States' last review remain operational and in force until such time that any new general education requirements and courses have been fully reviewed and approved by the Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees.

Rationale: The new general education program was presented to the Faculty Senate (during the Interim Senate) as a pilot program only, with an expected follow up report by the General Education Committee for discussion, review and Senate approval, before finalizing the courses as the recognized general education requirements for the University. This process has not occurred, and subsequently there has been no review, nor approval of the new general education courses being offered. The status and results of the pilot program is outstanding and the Faculty Senate awaits a report from that committee, which many say is now disbanded, and the appropriate request to institute the courses .

2. That the undergraduate and graduate programs in the Department of Education be continued until such time as the status, standing, and state of operation of the Center for Urban Education is determined and approved by the Faculty Senate. The Center for Urban Education, like the general education program, is operating and consists of courses that were not brought before the Senate, nor approved, according to the process for new course approval at the University. Hence, there are courses being taught under approved graduate degree programs that have not received senate approval.

Lastly, the Faculty Senate is looking ahead, with increased anxiety, to our reaccreditation in 2015 (or later if approved), and we are aware that we must begin our assessments for the writing of the Self Study Report. Given these circumstances, we have grave concern about the evolution, justification, and documentation of these programs as part of the academic offerings of this institution. It is our hope that you are able to work with the Faculty Senate in addressing and rectifying these issues.

Thank you in advance for your attention to these issues and this request. I am trying to get a date on your calendar (with the Chair of ASPPC) and we are requesting your attendance at the February 12, 2013 meeting.

Respectfully,

Connie M. Webster

Connie M. Webster, PhD, RN, CNE
Chair, Faculty Senate