

ASPPC APPROVED MOTION # 1

(02/24/2014)

WHEREAS, The University of the District of Columbia's adherence to shared governance is tantamount to its continued success; and

WHEREAS, The University of the District of Columbia is about to embark on a self-study review; and

WHEREAS, a new draft of the Vision 2020 has been written by the administration but not circulated for Faculty Senate input; and

WHEREAS, the university administration has not demonstrated a budget shortfall for the university; and

WHEREAS, the university administration has not provided a justifiable quantitative rationale for program eliminations; and

WHEREAS, a new draft of the Vision 2020 has been written by the administration but not circulated for Faculty Senate input; and

WHEREAS, the university administration, without adhering to the shared governance principles of the Middle States, sent a copy of their revised "Vision 2020 Plan" to the Mayor and City Council without sending a copy to the Faculty Senate; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees voted to eliminate and/or reduce 17 academic programs on 2/18/2014 without affording due process for input from faculty and students through its Academic Affairs Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees voted to change the established mission and objectives without input from faculty and students; and

WHEREAS, the University's Administration refuses to recognize that changes in the University's mission statement and elimination and/or reductions of 17 programs constitutes a substantive change as defined by the Middle States Commission of Higher Education (MSCHE); and

WHEREAS, the University's Administration refuses to seek prior approval from MSCHE for the substantive changes that it plans to make; and

WHEREAS, the letter from the Provost office, dated 2/11/2014, did not adequately address the issues raised by the faculty senate motions of 1/14/2014; and

WHEREAS, The Commission [MSCHE] considers the following types of changes to be substantive and therefore to require Commission review and approval in response to the accreditation provisions of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008:

- A principle of institutional accreditation is that everything done in the name of the institution is covered by its accreditation. Conversely, anything done without appropriate concern for consistency with an institution's stated mission and concern for quality and integrity [underlined for emphasis] may threaten the accredited status of the entire institution.
- Substantive changes are not automatically covered by the institution's accreditation or candidate status and may precipitate a review of the accredited or candidate status of the institution. Institutions planning a substantive change have the responsibility to inform the Commission in advance, following the procedural guidelines. **Prior approval** of the plan for substantive change **is required** before the change is included in the institution's previously granted Candidate or Accredited status. **Approval is not retroactive**. Unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of the Commission's action.
- Any change in the established mission or objectives of the institution; (Regulations 602.22, 34 CFR 602 Section)
- The institutional closure or institutional status requiring a teach-out plan for approval; (Regulations 602.24, 34 CFR 602 Section)

WHEREAS, the actions of the University's Administration with regard to the policy of MSCHE on substantive change could jeopardize the accreditation of the University;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of the District of Columbia administration send a substantive change request to the Middle States Commission of Higher Education by 3/15/2014.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Faculty Senate leadership and/or ASPPC chair send a request to Middle States Commission of Higher Education on 3/18/2014 to seek assistance and guidance with regard to MSCHE's substance change policies if a formal request is not sent by the administration by 3/15/2014.