

5-9-1983

Report and Resolution on Future Planning for General Education

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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Resolution #34, 1982-83

Report and Resolution on Future Planning for General Education

TO: President John E. Van de Wetering

FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on 5/9/83
(Date)

RE: X I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
 _____ II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)
 _____ III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJECT: Report and Resolution on Future Planning for General Education

(see attached)



Signed: Bill W. Reed Date Sent 5/11/83
 (For the Senate)
 Bill W. Reed, President, Faculty Senate

TO: The Faculty Senate

FROM: President John E. Van de Wetering

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution

a. Accepted. Effective Date _____

b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on _____

c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II., III. a. Received and acknowledged

b. Comment:

DISTRIBUTION: Vice Presidents: Abigail St. Denis

Others: _____

Distribution Date: 5/9/83 Signed: [Signature]
 (President of the College)

Date Received by the Senate: _____

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
College at Brockport

Faculty Senate Meeting 5/9/83
Agenda Item V. A. 1.

TO: Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate
FROM: Committee for Long-Range Planning
SUBJECT: Report and Resolution on Future Planning for General Education

Throughout the 1982-1983 academic year the Long-Range Planning Committee has been attempting to assess the impact of the General Education Program (GEP) in perspective with the College's future development. In February, the Committee sponsored a series of four hearings during which interested members of the Faculty and Staff, and specific individuals who have direct knowledge and/or involvement with, or who are affected by the GEP, were invited to discuss with the Committee the potential future effects of the GEP specifically on their respective areas of concern and on the College in general.

The Committee's invited guests included the deans of the three Academic Schools, the Alternate College, Adult and Continuing Education, the President, the Provost, the Director of the General Education Program and spokespeople representing the interests of admissions, marketing, and student retention. Other members of the Faculty and Staff attended the hearings and participated in the discussions.

In addition, a questionnaire was distributed to thirty-five academic departments requesting information about the departments' respective views of the future effects of the GEP on their programs. Twenty-six departments replied, some at great length, indicating that individual members of those departments had been directly involved in the formulation of the departmental responses.

The areas of concern, toward which both the hearings and the questionnaire survey were directed, focused on the future influence of the GEP--three to five years ahead was the convenient time-frame--rather than its present operations. Topics that were addressed for discussion purposes included: the resources needed for General Education in the future and the impact these needs might have on departmental academic programs in such areas as staffing, facilities, scheduling, recruitment of students and retention; the relationships between and among General Education and other campus programs such as the Alternate College and Continuing Education; the concordance between the GEP's objectives and the College's revised and extended Mission Statement and departmental programs; and the long-range management implications of the GEP in terms of planning, administration, supervision, evaluation and other considerations.

The general response to both the questionnaire and the hearings was most gratifying, reaffirming the Committee's view that the GEP will continue to influence many other College programs and that its future is of major interest to individuals in the campus community insofar as it may directly affect their concerns. The Committee notes, however, that there is widespread uncertainty about the specific extent and nature of the GEP's potential influence on the College's future, uncertainty manifested in part by a lack of clear understanding of the planned direction toward which the Program is proceeding.

There appears to be some confusion, for instance, over the Program's future needs for resources and its possible influences on retention and recruitment of non-traditional and transfer, as well as generic, students. There is evidence of some disenchantment with the present GEP, and foreboding that situations perceived today as problems in administration and implementation will be exacerbated in the future unless some corrective action is taken. The Committee concludes, therefore, that a major examination of the future design and operation of the GEP is both timely and necessary.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate direct the Standing Committee on Long-Range Planning and the Standing Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum to establish a special General Education Review Committee, said Committee to consist of three representatives from each of the above-named standing committees plus additional members from the Faculty and Staff at large, selected by those six members, in such numbers as will enable the Review Committee to accomplish its charge;
2. The Review Committee examine the Report of the General Education Coordinating Committee and compile additional data as needed, analyze the curricular design and the organizational structure of the General Education Program, evaluate the effectiveness of the Program, and assess the projected future resource needs of the Program and its potential impact on other College programs for a planning cycle of not less than three nor more than five years; and that
3. The Review Committee report its findings and the results of its evaluations, along with recommendations pursuant to the future of the General Education Program, to the Faculty Senate by the first meeting of that body in the second semester of the 1983-1984 academic year.