

Resolution to Revise CCSU's General Education Program

Whereas ConnSCU has adopted a Transfer Articulation Policy (TAP) that specifies learning competencies and knowledge areas for General Education Programs in the system,

And whereas the TAP is derived from Standard 4.16-19 of NEASC's *Standards for Accreditation* (effective July 1, 2011),

And whereas there is, therefore, some urgency in aligning CCSU's General Education with the TAP and with NEASC Standard 4,

And whereas the General Education Implementation Committee has been unable to produce a redesigned General Education Program that does not provoke serious opposition from a substantial portion of the faculty, and has instead decided to modify the current General Education requirements,

And whereas any proposed modification of existing General Education requirements ought to be done democratically, allowing both voice and vote to all voting members of the Curriculum Committee,

And whereas CCSU's current General Education Program is considered by many faculty members to be too bulky,

Be it resolved that the CCSU Faculty Senate

- (1) approves the attached "Alignment of CCSU's General Education Program with the TAP and with NEASC Standard 4," and asks that it be added to the description of the General Education Program in the catalog in place of the current list of "General Education Objectives;" and
- (2) charges the Curriculum Committee with presenting to the Faculty Senate during the Spring 2015 semester a proposal to accomplish the following:
 - a. reduce the number of distinct requirements in the General Education program;
 - b. ensure that the number of credits required by the average student to complete their General Education is close to the State minimum without having to take advantage of double-counting rules; and
- (3) charges the Curriculum Committee with revising its bylaws so that the General Education Program cannot grow in size (e.g., it may state that a new requirement may be added into the Program only if an existing requirement is deleted, so that a new requirement must not prove merely that it is a good idea, but that it is a better idea than at least one of the current requirements).

Alignment of CCSU's General Education Program with the TAP and with NEASC Standard 4

The mission of General Education is to ensure that all students are well and broadly educated in what are traditionally referred to as the arts and humanities, the sciences including mathematics, and the social sciences [[NEASC Standard 4.16-17](#); [CONNSCU Transfer Articulation Policy](#)]. The primary value of supplementing a professional education with a liberal education lies in the preservation and advancement of human understanding and in fostering achievement in the arts. In addition to pursuing knowledge for the sake of knowledge and art for the sake of art, basic research that is freed from the necessity of producing an immediate profit has historically led to innovations that have had a significant impact on humanity, both in economic and civic terms [[AAC&U What is a Liberal Education?](#)]. Economically, not only does basic research have the potential to revolutionize industries, but on a very practical level, the skills and habits of thought developed in liberal studies are highly prized by many employers. Politically, liberal studies cultivate the freedom to question conventional wisdom and narrow ideologies, and this freedom of thought lies at the very foundation of a free society.

Graduates successfully completing CCSU's General Education Program demonstrate competence in written and oral communication in English; the ability for scientific and quantitative reasoning, for critical analysis and logical thinking; and the capability for continuing learning, including the skills of information literacy. They also demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific, historical, and social phenomena, and a knowledge and appreciation of the aesthetic and ethical dimensions of humankind [[NEASC Standard 4.19](#); [CONNSCU Transfer Articulation Policy](#)].