

**University of Nebraska at Kearney**  
**Faculty Senate Resolution**  
**General Studies Program Requirements**  
**April 26 2018**

**Whereas** pursuant to the By-Laws of the Board of Regents and the Faculty Senate Constitution (Article I.A.5.), the powers and responsibilities of Faculty Senate include “Advising on academic matters that affect more than one college;” and

**Whereas** University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds met with Faculty Senate on August 31, 2017; and

**Whereas** President Bounds informed Faculty Senate that the University of Nebraska at Kearney had experienced five years in declining student enrollment and credit hour production and that the current General Studies Programs requirements of 45 hours are a significant contributing factor in declining enrollments; and

**Whereas** President Bounds reminded Faculty Senate of the fact that “faculty owns the curriculum”; and

**Whereas**, in September 2017 Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Charles Bicak issued a charge to the four undergraduate colleges to explore possible changes to the General Studies Program from 45 hours to 36 hours, 30 hours, 20 hours, or 18 hours; and

**Whereas**, on September 7, 2017 SVCASA Bicak issued a charge to the General Studies Council (GSC) to review and assess proposals by the four undergraduate colleges and proposals from GSC; and

**Whereas**, SVCASA Bicak charged the General Studies Council to identify commonalities and differences between the proposals, and to convene forums during the spring 2018 semester to ensure understanding of the proposals; and

**Whereas** in October 2017 the college proposals were transmitted to GSC; and

**Whereas** on April 23 and April 24, 2018 GSC held two forums; and

**Whereas** during each of these forums the Director of General Studies and GS Director of Assessment stated that, “there were no commonalities” among the college proposals; and

**Whereas** Faculty Senate has reviewed the four college proposals and identified numerous and significant commonalities outlined in the attached “Summary of COMMONALITIES in the white papers ...” and including endorsement by the faculty of each college of a reduction hours for the General Studies Program to between 30-36 hours,

**Therefore** be it resolved that the members of the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Kearney recommend that the Director and members of the General Studies Council put forward a proposal to reduce the number of hours required in the General Studies Program to no less than 30 hours and no more than 36 hours by the end of the 2018-2019 academic year; and

**Be it resolve** that in the event the General Studies Council fails to come up with a proposal by the December Faculty Senate meeting, the Senate will bring forward a vote of no confidence in the Council and its Director at the February 2019 Faculty Senate meeting.