

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.