



## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

November 10, 2017

#### Special Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. by President Wilson in Room BC of the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present, with the following Board members in attendance:

Governors Busuito, Dunaskiss, Gaffney, Kelly, Nicholson, O'Brien, Thompson, and Trent; and President Wilson

**Also Present:** Provost Whitfield, Vice Presidents Burns, Decatur, Hefner, Lessem, Lindsey, Staebler, and Wright; and Secretary Miller

The Special Meeting of the Board of Governors was called to consider revisions to the General Education statute, WSUCA 2.43.03.

The current statute, consisting of 46 required credits, was adopted in 1986 and had undergone only minor revisions since then. A comprehensive review and analysis of the current program was undertaken in 2014, and after review of the recommendations by the General Education Oversight Committee and consideration of amendments by the Academic Senate, a new curriculum will be adopted effective Fall Term 2018. The revised statute focuses on student access and degree attainment, while reducing the overall number of requirements and credit hours and at the same time embracing elements central to the mission of the University.

President Wilson indicated that the Academic Affairs Committee, held earlier in the day, held a lengthy discussion, heard a public comment, and took action on the proposal. The Board will now consider the Committee's recommendations, and the President asked for a motion and a second.

**MOTION** by Governor Dunaskiss and seconded by Governor Trent that the Board of Governors revise WSUCA 2.43.03, General Education Program Requirements, as presented, effective Fall Term 2018.

Governor Busuito wished to amend the motion.

**MOTION** to amend by Governor Busuit, seconded by Governor Gaffney to increase the General Education requirements to 35 hours from 32 hours, and to add a second science course.

Governor Gaffney clarified his second by explaining that it would be up to the student to decide whether they wished to take one course each from life sciences and physical sciences,

or both courses from only one or the other category. Governor Busuito accepted this stipulation.

Governor Nicholson commented that one of the things he came to realize during the Committee discussion was that he did not feel qualified to answer questions regarding the ideal number of credits and what are the best required courses for individuals at any time in their lives. He does agree, however, that general education requirements are necessary and that they should be broad-based. He felt that the administration's plan answered that requirement. Further, as he read the Student Senate's document, he understood their point about 32 credits. Governor Nicholson stated that the Provost and other stakeholders should come to some agreement on the general education requirements and limit it to 32 credit hours. At a later point in the discussion, he noted his support to adding a second science requirement.

Governor Dunaskiss also supported the cap at 32 credits. She stated that just as there was a process for formulating the recommendations, there should be a process for reviewing the program after a certain length of time of perhaps three to five years. If the program is effective it remains as is; if the data show that it needs to be changed in any way, then it is done so through the review process. The decision then becomes data-driven, not something that is brought up at the end to be added. Governor Busuito noted that he was given to understand that the Academic Senate acted in a democratic fashion and that the democratic process was not subverted; he felt therefore the Senate's recommendations must be respected. Governor Dunaskiss agreed, but added that respect does not necessarily mean approval or acceptance of the suggestion. She believes that the Board and the President respect the Senate's advisory role in the University; it is essential and important to an academic institution. However, according someone respect means you listen to their ideas and consider them; it does not always mean agreement. The Senate's advisory role is valuable, but ultimately the president is responsible for making recommendations to the Board for the good of the University. Governor Kelly stated that it is the further responsibility of the Board to consider the President's recommendation, which she respects, and weigh that against all other factors, one of which is the Academic Senate's recommendation, which she believes in this subject has great weight. For that reason she supports the proposed amendment.

Governor O'Brien also indicated her support for the amendment. She said that when making decisions on the sale of property or other business of the University, she would not defer to the faculty. She would, however, defer to them in academic areas regarding curriculum where they have expertise. At a later point in the discussion, she commented that in three years time, she would like to see the individual schools and colleges creating their own general education requirements rather than having a university-wide statute.

Governor Gaffney noted that the higher 35-credit requirement still reduces the General Education requirements by 20 or 22%. He does agree with Governor Dunaskiss about reviewing the statute every three years.

Governor Thompson also supported the amendment. She appreciated all the work done by the Academic Senate, the Student Senate, and the administration, but was not convinced that 32 credit hours was arrived at in a data-driven way. She came to her decision after listening to the Academic Senate representatives and considering their expertise, background, and connection with the students.

President Wilson commented that the discussion during the Academic Affairs Committee and the Board meeting was an example of the democratic process at work. He understood that

there are differences of opinion among Board members as well as among the faculty. The President noted that Professor Krista Brumley showed considerable bravery in coming forward and speaking her mind, even though it ran counter to the Policy Committee mainstream, and he hoped that her faculty colleagues would also see that difference of opinion as part of the democratic process.

Just before the vote, the Board confirmed that only one science class would require a lab. President Wilson called for a vote on the amendment.

**ACTION** — Upon motion by Governor Busuito and seconded by Governor Gaffney, the Board of Governors approved the amendment to the General Education statute revisions that would add a second science course to the requirements, without differentiating between physical or life sciences, and increase the total number of required credits to 35. The motion was adopted with a vote of 5-3.

The Board then voted on the recommendation from the Academic Affairs Committee as amended above.

**ACTION** — Upon motion by Governor Dunaskiss and seconded by Governor Trent, the Board of Governors revised WSUCA 2.43.03, General Education Program Requirements, effective Fall Term 2018, as presented with the following revisions:

- a) The GEOC will also include one (1) member of the academic staff who has student advising responsibilities;
- b) Two courses from the Natural Scientific Inquiry will be required, one of which must include a lab requirement, and may be chosen from either physical or life sciences;
- c) The General Education Program shall not require more than 35 credits.

The motion was adopted with a vote of 6-2.

President Wilson thanked the Board members for their effort and engagement with the issue. The text of the revised statute, General Education Program (WSUCA 2.43.03), follows:

2.43.03.010 The University will have a General Education Program that all undergraduates must fulfill as part of a Bachelor's Degree program at Wayne State University. The General Education Program shall be comprised of Competencies, Group Requirements, and Wayne Experience Requirements. The General Education Program shall not require more than 35 credits.

2.43.03.020 Competencies

Success in college and the ability to function as an educated citizen require not only the mastery of areas of substantive knowledge, but also acquisition of fundamental skills or competencies that underlie the acquisition of knowledge.

Since these competencies are preconditions for higher education, multiple methods of demonstrating competency shall be available, including satisfactory completion of designated courses, earning an appropriate score on designated examinations or, in some instances, satisfactory completion of specified high school courses.

- 2.43.03.030 Written Communication  
    Basic Composition (BC)  
    Intermediate (IC; choice of one)  
        Intermediate Composition  
        Writing in the Discipline

- 2.43.03.040 Oral Communication (OC)

- 2.43.03.050 Quantitative Experience (QE; choice of one)  
    Algebra-Math (Math 1050 or any higher Math course)  
    Statistics (STA 1020, BA 2300 or other approved course)  
    Quantitative Reasoning (any approved QR course)  
    All QE options will offer co-requisite support as deemed appropriate

- 2.43.03.060 Group Requirements

Fundamental to the university-level General Education requirements are courses designed to ensure that all students have some exposure to important areas of knowledge. Group requirements include courses that provide intellectual breadth important for completion of and complement their majors and is necessary for an understanding of public life and continuing self-education throughout the life-course.

Each student must complete a minimum of seven courses of at least three credits each from the following Inquiry groups, with at least two courses from the Natural Science Inquiry (NSI), one with a lab section, and one course from the remaining Inquiry groups, all of which are listed below:

- 2.43.03.070 Cultural Inquiry (CI)  
2.43.03.080 Natural Scientific Inquiry (NSI)  
2.43.03.090 Social Inquiry (I)  
2.43.03.100 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Inquiry (DEI)  
2.43.03.110 Global Learning Inquiry (GL)  
2.43.03.120 Civic Literacy (CIV)  
2.43.03.130 Wayne Experience (WE; 1 credit)

Wayne Experience is the opportunity to work with a small group of students with similar interests to become immersed in the Wayne State University campus and

community, including understanding the challenges and opportunities offered by a research university in an urban setting. The essential goals for this requirement are to foster a sense of belonging, acculturate the student to the WSU academic community, and cultivate the skills to navigate the college experience, all within the context of exploring a topic of interest.

Students must select one WE course based on their needs and interests.

#### 2.43.03.140 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The philosophy, specific criteria, and guidelines governing the establishment and implementation of the General Education requirements are set forth in the report of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee on General Education requirements, as approved by the Academic Senate on February 5, 1986, and endorsed in principle by the Board of Governors on February 14, 1986. The current revision adheres to these principles.

Any future revisions to the General Education curriculum requirements established herein should consider the appropriate balance between curricular requirements, the overall goals of student success, and degree attainment.

#### 2.43.03.150 Guidelines

The following general guidelines shall prevail in implementation of the requirements:

2.43.03.160 All courses that satisfy General Education requirements must be approved as General Education Program course by the President or his/her designee after review and recommendation by the General Education Oversight Committee.

2.43.03.170 Equivalent courses taken at another institution may satisfy General Education requirements. In cases where this would exceed the limitation of 64 credit hours from a community college accepted on a transfer basis, such courses shall satisfy the requirements, but their credits will not count toward the degree.

2.43.03.180 It is the primary responsibility of departments whose courses are granted General Education Program status to schedule these courses to fit the special programming needs of students in professional programs.

2.43.03.190 Satisfactory scores on advanced placement examinations, CLEP and special departmental examinations shall be accepted as fulfilling General Education requirements in the appropriate competencies or group requirements.

2.43.03.200 Departments, schools and colleges have the responsibility to develop or select tests which students may take to complete competency and group requirements and to recommend those to the General Education Oversight Committee for review. The president or his/her designee will approve the tests after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee.

2.43.03.210 A student who satisfies competency requirements by examination shall be excused from taking the related course, but may receive no course credit.

2.43.03.220 Course credit granted upon earning an appropriate score on advanced placement, CLEP, or departmental examinations will satisfy the General Education Program group requirement and award credit toward degree requirements.

2.43.03.230 IMPLEMENTATION

General Education Oversight Committee

In consultation with the Academic Senate, the president or his/her designee shall establish a General Education Oversight Committee (GEOC) for the purpose of making recommendations to the President on the implementation, review, assessment, and revision of the General Education Program curriculum. Recommendations to modify the General Education Program adopted by the president or his/her designee shall be published in the University Bulletin. On a regular basis, the GEOC shall issue a report on its actions and recommendations to the president or his/her designee.

2.43.03.240 The GEOC will be representative of the University community as a whole as follows: One (1) representative each from the colleges of Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Nursing, Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and Social Work; two (2) representatives from the College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts; four(4) representatives from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; one (1) member of the Academic Staff with student advising responsibilities; one (1) representative, ex officio, from the University Libraries; one (1) representative, ex officio, from the Academic Senate. The committee shall decide the number of student representatives.

2.43.03.250 The president or his/her designee shall appoint the committee chair.

2.43.03.260 Effective Date and Publication in the University Bulletin:

The General Education Program, as revised herein, shall become effective Fall Semester 2018 and shall be published in the University Bulletin. Future revisions to the curriculum adopted by the president or his/her designee in consultation with GEOC shall go into effect upon publication in the University Bulletin.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Governor O'Brien presented the following recommendation from the Executive Committee for the Board's consideration and vote.

**MOTION** by Governor O'Brien and seconded by Governor Gaffney that the Board of Governors authorize the President or his designee to sell and to execute all necessary documents for the sale of 33737 Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills MI. The parcel consists of 17.55 acres that houses a 94,733 square-foot building, commonly known as

the Oakland Center. In addition upon the sale of the property the University will experience approximately \$461,000 in annual cost savings attributed to the elimination of third-party management fees, operating and maintenance expenses, and general expenses funded to support the property. A portion of the initial cost savings will be redirected elevate and deploy programming at other Wayne State University satellite campuses which would be Schoolcraft College, ATEC, and Macomb Community College to leverage existing partnerships, develop new ones, particularly with Oakland Community College, and meet the challenging demographics and needs of new and existing Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne county students.

Governor Thompson noted a discrepancy in the documents regarding the exact acreage involved. The Letter of Intent states 19.16 acres, while the recommendation states 17.55 acres. President Wilson indicated that the administration will check the exact number and report it to the Board.

**ACTION** — The above motion regarding the sale of the Oakland Center was adopted unanimously.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller  
Secretary to the Board of Governors