

APPENDIX A TRUSTEES' RESOLUTION 98-241:

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

Whereas setting the standards of knowledge possessed by the State University's students when they graduate is one of the premier responsibilities of the Board of Trustees: and

Whereas the State Education Commissioner and State Board of Regents have moved to raise academic standards of New York State's secondary schools which higher standards should be reinforced by rigorous academic standards in the State's institutions of higher education: and

Whereas the Joint Task Force on General Education of the State University of New York Faculty Senate and Faculty Council of Community Colleges, has reported the need for enhancing General Education curricula and recommended the adoption of common system-wide learning goals; and

Whereas the Board of Trustees' Committee on Academic Standards, over a two-year period, has conducted public meetings in which General Education standards have been discussed, and representatives of the faculty and noted national experts have taken part; and

Whereas the Board of Trustees' Subcommittee on General Education and Core Curriculum has reviewed and discussed the reports of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Council of Community Colleges and University Provost concerning General Education, including programs at other leading universities; and

Whereas the State University Board of Trustees possesses *broad* authority over the curriculum of its institutions under Section 355(2)(h) of the New York State Education Law; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Board of Trustees hereby adopts a General Education Requirement applicable to all state-operated institutions of the State University offering undergraduate degrees which shall require candidates for a bachelors degree, as a condition of graduation, to complete an academically rigorous and comprehensive core General Education curriculum of no fewer than 30 credit hours including, but not limited to, at least three credit hours of course work to instill knowledge and skills in each of the following key academic subjects: mathematics, natural science, social science, American history, Western Civilization, Other World Civilizations, humanities and the arts, foreign languages, basic communication and reasoning, and information management, and be it further

Resolved that implementation of the General Education Requirement be subject to the following principles:

1. The faculty of each institution will retain the responsibility for establishing the specific course requirements and content of a General Education curriculum reflective of the best practices in American higher education.
2. Individual campuses are encouraged to allow faculty to develop more than one curriculum which meets the General Education Requirement.
3. Each institution's General Education curriculum shall complement and build on students' foundation of secondary school or other prior academic preparation, especially with respect to mathematics, science and foreign language.
4. Each institution shall devote sufficient resources to the General Education program to assure effective instruction and successful learning.

5. Institutions offering Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees shall design their General Education Requirement so as to facilitate the ability of such Associates degree graduates to transfer into State University baccalaureate degree programs consistent with Trustees` Resolution 90-196, dated September 27, 1990.

6. Such General Education curriculum courses shall be broad, high-quality courses that provide students with a set of non-specialized, coherent and focused educational experiences throughout the college years aimed at enabling students to acquire knowledge and skills that are useful and important for all educated persons regardless of their jobs or professions.

7. The Provost of State University may establish additional guidelines and procedures for implementation of these requirements as appropriate and necessary, which guidelines may permit waiver or modifications of portions of these requirements for the Specialized Colleges, Colleges of Technology, programs awarding two-year vocational degrees and for other special circumstances.

8. The requirements shall apply to students entering the State University as freshmen beginning in the fall of 2000

and, be it further

Resolved that in accordance with Section 6306(2) of the State Education Law, the State University Board of Trustees urges the boards of trustees of the community colleges operating under the program of the State University to adopt General Education Requirements and curricula consistent with the aforementioned principles; and, be it further

Resolved that the Provost of the State University will work with the leadership and faculty of the University's campuses to develop a means for assuring that demonstrable learning in specified General Education subjects is taking place, that a campus' implementation of General Education standards set forth in this resolution is considered in the allocation of resources to campuses and to explore ways to recognize and reward faculty who make major commitments to strengthening General Education at their campuses so as to encourage the involvement of outstanding junior and senior faculty; and, be it further

Resolved that the Provost of the State University will work with the leadership and faculty of the State University's campuses to implement this resolution, consistent with the Mission Review process. The Provost will advise the Board of Trustees of any additional steps that may need to be taken to insure the smooth implementation of this resolution in a fashion that enhances access and quality at the State University.

BACKGROUND

This Board, under the leadership of the Academic Standards Committee and the Subcommittee on General Education and Core Curriculum has taken a keen interest in the issue of General Education standards for the campuses of the State University of New York. This interest has been in keeping with a national discussion on the subject and, within the University, is reflected in efforts undertaken by the Joint Task Force on General Education of the State University of New York Faculty Senate and Faculty Council of Community Colleges. That Task Force issued a report in January 1998 which expressed the need for enhancing General Educational curricula and recommended the adoption of common, system-wide learning goals.

Over a two-year period, the Trustees' Committee on Academic Standards has conducted public meetings in which General Education standards have been discussed and representatives of the faculty and noted national experts have taken part. Additionally, the trustees' Subcommittee on General

Education and Core Curriculum has reviewed and discussed the above-mentioned report of the Joint Task Force and a Report prepared by the Provost of the State University dated December 1, 1998, which includes descriptions of General Education programs at leading universities around the country. This resolution is the result of these discussions, and will establish for the state-operated institutions of the State University a General Education Requirement which will become a condition of graduation for the class of students entering as freshmen in the Fall semester 2000. The requirement consists of a minimum of 30 credit hours covering a number of specific skill and knowledge areas. The specific courses and content which will comprise the General Education curriculum at each State University campus will remain the responsibility of campus faculty and administrators.

This resolution also urges the boards of trustees of the community colleges operating under the program of the State University of New York to establish General Education curricula and requirements which will facilitate the transfer of their graduates into State University baccalaureate degree programs.