

## **Proposal for a General Education Faculty Council**

We are at a singular moment here at MSU. At a time when our very success as an institution sometimes seems to be in question due to declining enrollments, increasing costs, and a rapidly changing global context, we choose to undertake the most comprehensive examination and re-design of Academic Affairs since the days of President Frank Button. Stories abound in the Nation about institutions that re-tooled their curricula or their General Education program, but it is truly unique for an institution to take on the task of re-defining both of these at the same time. Indeed, every component of what we do in educating our students is to be evaluated for focus and alignment with our mission. President Andrews and Provost Hughes have indicated their commitment to this being an open process. They are encouraging communication and inquiry from all stakeholders, and this council is one of the mechanisms for assuring transparency and inviting serious contributions. We in the Executive Council believe that all faculty need to become involved in the discussion of just what the “new” General Education program will entail in terms of goals and curriculum.

**To facilitate the formation of this new program, the Faculty Senate Executive Council proposes the formation of a “General Education Faculty Council”.**

This Council will engage some basic topics/issues:

- Establishing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that MSU students will be expected to gain from the Gen Ed Program
- Weaving in a comprehensive assessment of Gen Ed to evaluate how well it is delivering the desired learner outcomes and to foster continuous improvement
- The composition of the Gen Ed core
- The nature of the Gen Ed elective portion
- Delineate how transfers will work (both in and out of MSU)
- Defining the types of Professional Development that should be offered to faculty members wishing to teach the new Gen Ed courses
- Assuring openness and participation from all stakeholders but faculty in particular
- Other issues as they appear from discussions and possibly from the curriculum audit

Initially, the Council will consist of one member from each academic department to be determined by election among the faculty within the department.

The Council, once formed, may decide whether to add additional members, whether to establish smaller sub-committees for individual issues, and how to proceed with its duties.

Members of the council will be responsible for communication in the open process, reporting to the Provost, the General Education Task Force/Steering Committee, and Faculty Senate.

Members of this council should consist of tenured faculty.