General Education Committee Recommendations and Motions
WKU Colonnade Plan – General Education Revision
(October 26, 2011)

The General Education Committee endorses the WKU Colonnade Plan. We believe it to be an improvement over the current General Education plan that will improve students' intellectual experiences and achieve its stated learning outcomes.

The University Senate has two tasks.

1. <u>The Senate must evaluate and decide whether to approve the WKU Colonnade Plan</u>. The last general education revision took place in 2000/1. The Senate voted on whether to accept or reject the entire revision proposal. The motion put forward at the first reading (December 2000) of that revision read:

> *"The Report from the Task Force on General Education is the result of a lengthy consultation and revision process. After its own review of the report, the University Senate General Education Committee has decided it is important to preserve the integrity of the report. Therefore, we suggest that the Senate treat the report as they would a proposed new program, when after questions and discussion, the program is either approved or it is sent back for revisions.*

> *Therefore, the General Education Committee proposes that the University Senate adopt the following special rule:*

> *The University Senate shall debate the Report of the General Education Task Force as a whole, discussing it section by section as long as the assembly desires, but no amendments to the report shall be accepted from the floor. At the end of the discussion, the Senate shall vote on the report as a whole. A yes vote will signal approval of the report, a no vote will send the report back to the Task Force for further revision."*

We recommend to the Senate that this year's proposal be handled using the same process. The WKU Colonnade Plan should be considered as a coherent program rather than as a menu of courses and requirements. **Therefore, the General Education Committee moves that**:

- The Senate consider the entire Task Force proposal as a whole;
- The Senate have two readings of the proposal and vote on whether to accept the proposal after the second reading;
- The Senate specify that there will be no rewriting, editing, or amending the proposal on the floor during the voting process;
- In the event that the Senate rejects the proposal, the Senate will send back the proposal to the General Education Task Force for retooling; and

- In the event that the Senate rejects the proposal and after the General Education Task Force retools the Plan, the process of reconsideration will recommence at the Senate's General Education Committee.

Faculty and students will have many questions about the plan. We further recommend that:
- The WKU Colonnade Plan be posted on the Senate's web site for consideration; and
- Before the Senate's second reading, the General Education Task Force and members of the Senate's General Education Committee organize at least two campus-wide forums during which students and faculty will have the opportunity to ask questions and gather more information about the proposal.

2. <u>The Senate must decide how to implement the WKU Colonnade Plan</u> if it is approved. It should be emphasized that it will be impossible for any governance body to predict and prescribe precisely how the implementation of and transition to the new Plan will play out. There are lingering implementation issues that must be addressed, as the Task Force's report admits. The General Education Committee believes, however, that such issues are not serious enough to delay approval of the WKU Colonnade Plan.

We support the General Education Task Force's implementation recommendations. We recommend that the Senate vote to approve them in a second series of votes, after the WKU Colonnade Plan has been approved. Specifically:

- **The General Education Committee moves** that the Senate vote to charge the Senate Executive Committee to form a body that will facilitate the implementation ("Implementation Committee") of the new plan and oversee an orderly transition from the old plan to the new. The SEC, in consultation with the Provost's office, will select the Implementation Committee membership and develop for the committee a mission statement, WKU Colonnade Plan implementation and oversight procedures, and operating guidelines; and
- **The General Education Committee moves** that the Senate vote to decertify all currently-approved general education courses from automatic inclusion in the WKU Colonnade Plan upon approval of the Plan by the Board of Regents. The Implementation Committee will devise a process, criteria, and timeline for evaluating courses for inclusion in the WKU Colonnade Program. All courses proposed for inclusion in the WKU Colonnade Program must be approved by the appropriate department and college curriculum committees and the UCC before being sent to the Implementation Committee.
- **The General Education Committee moves** that the Senate, after it approves the WKU Colonnade Program, vote to close the current general education program to new courses or revisions.