

SUBSTITUTE MOTION

to be introduced as an amendment supplanting the Atwell-Brush motion
on General Education at the Faculty Senate meeting of 4 March 2010

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate, acting on behalf of the general faculty of Radford University, recommend to the Provost, the President, and the Board of Visitors that in the forthcoming 2010-2011 undergraduate catalog, the "Core Curriculum" (currently appearing on pp. 80-87 of the 2009-2010 undergraduate catalog) be replaced with a restored "General Education Program" as it appeared in the 2008-2009 undergraduate catalog (on pp. 83-88 therein), with these changes only:

- That the total hours earned for completion of the program be reduced from 50 to 44;
- That the category called "General Education Elective" (see p. 88, 2008-2009 catalog) be deleted;
- That Area 1, Communication, be a total of 6 to 9 hours, with COMS 114, Public Speaking, added to this Area as an optional third course that may be taken in addition to the required 6 hours in ENGL 101 and ENGL 102;
- And that Area 8, Social and Behavioral Sciences, be revised to require a total of 6 to 9 hours, with 3 hours required in HIST 101, 102, 111, or 112, and an additional 3 to 6 hours to be taken from among courses appearing in this Area in the 2008-2009 catalog that continue to be offered, or those approved for fulfillment of Goal 9 of the current Core, provided that if a student enrolls in two such courses, they be designated with different course prefixes.

RATIONALE:

It is the *unanimous* view of every department chair and school director in the College of Science and Technology and the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, that the Core Curriculum in the 2009-2010 undergraduate catalog commits Radford University to teaching and administering a curriculum that the programs of the university do not have the resources to teach and administer. It is by now an all but foregone conclusion, for instance, that the current plans to offer 55 or more sections of CORE 201 and 202 in Fall 2010 will fail in one or more of several ways: the university will rely too heavily on adjunct faculty ill-equipped for the task; it may fail to muster enough teaching resources for sufficient sections even with this reliance on adjuncts; and it may therefore abandon the pedagogical objectives of these CORE courses with regard to student assignments and instructional goals. Meanwhile, even in the best-case outcome, the Core Curriculum will continue to be a drain on teaching resources in a time of tight budget constraints, with effects that cascade through many major programs that are shorthanded in their teaching ranks already.

As the persons responsible for administering the departments and schools responsible for the vast majority of credit-hour production in a curriculum comprising one-third of a Radford undergraduate education, it is our *unanimous* judgment that the 2009-2010 Core Curriculum can be declared a failed experiment after a one-year "pilot test." With the best of intentions, it committed the university to an unteachable program, given current and foreseeable resources. The proposal above attempts three things: first, restoration of a tried and true curriculum that we know we have the resources to teach; second, the reduction of total credit hours from 50 to 44; and third, as little alteration in our former curriculum as possible in order to minimize the inevitable advising difficulties that will arise from a restoration of that curriculum.