

Resolution from the Florida State University Faculty Senate on Board of Governor's Regulation 8.005

The Faculty Senate of Florida State University opposes unilateral removal by the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida of any courses from the approved list that satisfy the Social Sciences requirement for General Studies, as proposed in draft Regulation 8.005.

The current list was created with the input of faculty statewide with knowledge and expertise in both the curricular norms and academic goals of the general education requirements. These requirements encompass all critical fields in Liberal Studies and form the basis for interoperability at all colleges and universities in the State University System. The faculty rightly retain the mandate to direct the educational goals of the curriculum statewide. The removal of courses without faculty oversight violates academic freedom and contravenes traditional academic norms that ensure subject matter expertise is an integral part of the process for determining the minimum requirements for a general liberal studies education.

Furthermore, Section 4 of the regulation requires the annual approval of general education requirements at each institution by both the Board of Trustees and Board of Governors, which introduces an unprecedented incursion of academic oversight and effectively removes faculty governance as anticipated by our institutional traditions and constitutions. This proposed process would undermine the ability of the State University System to ensure parity in the offerings of each university or college in regard to general education requirements, and it erodes the foundations of shared academic governance that have made our state university system the best in the nation.