

SDSU University Senate Resolution in Rejection of the Report of the California State University General Education Task Force
(GETF)

WHEREAS General Education contributes to students' intellectual growth, prepares them to succeed in their major degree programs, develops transferable skills that contribute to career flexibility, and empowers them to discharge competently their civic obligations locally and at the state and national levels, and

WHEREAS implementation of the recommendations of the GETF would undermine the CSU's mission to provide undergraduates with a broadly based liberal arts education designed to do more than provide vocational training, and

WHEREAS the discussions and proceedings resulting in the recent report and recommendations of the GETF were conducted largely behind closed doors, and

WHEREAS the discussions of the GETF involved inadequate consultation with faculty in several disciplines whose expertise would have been relevant to its deliberations and whose programs are significantly impacted by the GETF recommendations, and

WHEREAS the GETF report follows quickly on the heels of the revised EO 1100, a change to General Education which itself prompted considerable concern that faculty authority on curricular matters had been abrogated,

BE IT RESOLVED That the San Diego State University University Senate (SDSU University Senate) rejects the GETF report as illegitimate, and as an infringement on both faculty curricular authority and the spirit of shared governance; and be it further

RESOLVED That the SDSU University Senate rejects the content of the recommendations presented by the GETF; and be it further

RESOLVED That the SDSU University Senate urges the ASCSU to constitute a new GETF and ensure both that its work adhere closely to the stated intents of AS 3271 and also that its work be done openly in the time honored tradition of genuine shared governance; and be it further

RESOLVED That the SDSU University Senate instructs the ASCSU to reject the GETF report in toto as an illegitimate and flawed document for the reasons outlined above; and be it further

RESOLVED That the SDSU University Senate calls for a moratorium on further changes to General Education and graduation requirements in the CSU made without shared governance representative of all stakeholders; and be it finally

RESOLVED That this resolution be distributed to the ASCSU and the Chancellor of the CSU.

RATIONALE:

This resolution is based on the following process considerations:

- The GETF issued only two updates on its proceedings in nearly two years of operation, leaving most CSU faculty unaware of the nature of its discussions and unclear on its timeline for completing its responsibilities.

- There is credible evidence suggesting that one or more members of the Board of Trustees, present at GETF meetings unofficially and out of a declared “interest” in its proceedings, unduly influenced its early deliberations.
- The GETF report was released suddenly and unexpectedly just as CSU faculty were beginning to raise serious questions about the process that produced it.
- Despite the GETF’s stated commitment to make its work “data driven wherever possible rather than assumption based,” [General Education Task Force (GETF), “Initial Update from the ASCSU General Education Task Force—March 2018” (March 2018), 4] its deliberations slighted available data, assessments, and IRB-approved student surveys and questionnaires about key GE courses. It is also based on the following concerns about the content of the GETF report
- Implementation of the Task Force’s recommendations would disproportionately reduce enrollments in smaller academic programs that make important contributions to GE and our academic community more generally. In particular, the recommendations of the GETF directly conflict with the recommendations of the Chancellor’s Ethnic Studies Task Force, which Chancellor White explicitly endorsed.
- The recommendation that existing American Institutions courses be replaced by one poorly defined three-unit course in American “Democracy,” which may include American and California government and History (p. 7), is indefensible at a time of national crisis when the need for an informed and engaged citizenry is as evident as ever. The claim that Title V (as reflected in EO 1061) does not require two-three unit courses is another “bad faith” argument that cannot stand scrutiny.