Resolution #21
1979-1980

Competency Testing in Communication Skills

TO: PRESIDENT ALBERT W. BROWN
FROM: THE FACULTY SENATE
RE: I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
    II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)
    III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJECT: Resolution on Competency Testing in Communication Skills

(see attached)

Robert G. Kemmerling, President, Faculty Senate

TO: THE FACULTY SENATE
FROM: PRESIDENT ALBERT W. BROWN
RE: I. DECISION AND ACTION TAKEN ON FORMAL RESOLUTION
    a. Accepted. Effective Date
    b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on
    c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II., III. Received and acknowledged
    b. Comment: "need detail on meaning of "full implementation"

DISTRIBUTION: Vice Presidents: please stay in touch with Diane

Others as identified: XC Douglas

Distribution Date: 3/17/80

Signed: (President of the College)

Date Received by the Senate:
STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
Brockport, New York

Agenda Item VI. C.  
Faculty Senate Mtg. 3/17/80

RESOLUTION ON COMPETENCY TESTING IN COMMUNICATION SKILLS

The General Education Coordinating Committee is recommending that full implementation of the competency-based feature of the Communication Skills requirement be delayed for one year.

Rationale:

1.) Many faculty members who are new to basic skills instruction will be participating in this course, while the course itself has been redrawn as well. It seems appropriate to allow faculty members a year to orient themselves to the experience of basic skills instruction and to this course in particular before moving completely to a competency-based mode of certifying that students have met the requirement.

2.) The intellectual issues involved in developing a valid competency-based examination are very complex. The GECC urges that the year “delay” period be used for further study of these issues, design of an appropriate instrument, and a limited “pilot” experience with competency-based testing in this area.

3.) The logistical problems involved are likewise considerable, requiring large amounts of faculty time for scoring examinations as well as training for the evaluation of such instruments. At a time when the college is asking the faculty to undertake a number of new functions, this additional burden may well be delayed for a year in the interests of gaining widespread support for the program.
STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
Brockport, New York  

Agenda Item VI. C.  
Faculty Senate Mtg. 3/17/80  

RESOLUTION ON COMPETENCY TESTING IN COMMUNICATION SKILLS  

The General Education Co-ordinating Committee is recommending that full implementation of the competency based feature of the Communication Skills requirement be delayed for one year.  

Rationales:  

1.) Many faculty members who are new to basic skills instruction will be participating in this course, while the course itself has been redrawn as well. It seems appropriate to allow faculty members a year to orient themselves to the experience of basic skills instruction and to this course in particular before moving completely to a competency-based mode of certifying that students have met the requirement.  

2.) The intellectual issues involved in developing a valid competency based examination are very complex. The GEC urges that the year "delay" period be used for further study of these issues, design of an appropriate instrument, and a limited "pilot" experience with competency based testing in this area.  

3.) The logistical problems involved are likewise considerable, requiring large amounts of faculty time for scoring examinations as well as training for the evaluation of such instruments. At a time when the college is asking the faculty to undertake a number of new functions, this additional burden may well be delayed for a year in the interests of gaining widespread support for the program.