Resolution #20 2010-2011
College Senate

Supersedes Res #: ____________________

TO: Dr. John R. Halstead, College President
FROM: The College Senate: March 21, 2011
RE: I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
   II. Recommendation (Urging the Fitness of)
   III. Other, For Your Information (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJ: Foreign Language General Education Program Requirement
       (routing B78_10-11GE)

Signed: Jose R. Torre, 2010-11, College Senate President
Date: 4/1/11

Please fill out the bottom portion and follow the distribution instructions at the end of this page.

TO: Jose R. Torre, College Senate President
FROM: John R. Halstead, College President

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution (circle choice)
   a. Accepted - Implementation Effective Date: Fall 2011
   b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on __/__/____
   c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II, III. Response to Recommendation or Other/FYI
   a. Received and acknowledged __/__/____
   b. Comment:

Signed: John R. Halstead, President, The College at Brockport
Date: 4/5/11

DISTRIBUTION
Upon approval, the College President will forward copies of resolutions to his staff who will, in turn, forward copies to their staff. The College Senate Office will post resolutions to the College Senate Web at http://www.brockport.edu/collegesenate/resolutions.
COLLEGE SENATE OFFICE
RESOLUTION PROPOSAL COVER PAGE
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: FEBRUARY 28
Incomplete proposals may be returned and proposals received after the deadline may not be reviewed until next semester.

INSTRUCTIONS – please, no multiple attachments – submit each proposal electronically as one Word document.
• Submit only complete proposals with this cover page, attachments and support letters from your department chair and dean merged into one Word document.
• Signed documents may be submitted as hard copies.
• Use committee guidelines available at brockport.edu/collegesenate/proposal.html.
• Locate the Resolution # and date this proposal will replace at our “Approved Resolutions” page on our Web site.
• Do not send your proposal as a .pdf file.
• Email your proposal as one attachment to senate@brockport.edu. Signed pages can be sent/faxed as hard copies.
• All revisions must be resubmitted to senate@brockport.edu with the original cover page including routing number.
• Questions? Call the Senate office at 395-2586 or the appropriate committee chairperson.

1. PROPOSAL TITLE: Please be somewhat descriptive, ie. Graduate Probation/Dismissal Proposal rather than Graduate Proposal.
Foreign Language Requirement – General Education Program

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:
Revise the current requirement to a new requirement that all students must complete or have the equivalent of FLN 111

3. WILL ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AFFECTING BUDGET BE NEEDED? ___ x__ NO ___ YES EXPLAIN YES

4. DESCRIBE ANY DATA RELATED TO STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT USED AS PART OF THE RATIONALE FOR THE REQUESTED SENATE ACTION.

5. HOW WILL THIS EFFECT TRANSFER STUDENTS: No impact

6. ANTICIPATED EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2011

7. SUBMISSION & REVISION DATES: PLEASE DATE ALL REVISED DOCUMENTS TO AVOID CONFUSION.
First Submission Updated on Updated on Updated on
3/21/11 (Senate Floor)

8. SUBMITTED BY: (contact person)
Name Department Phone Email
Anne Huot Provost 2524 ahuot@brockport.edu

9. COMMITTEES TO COPY: (Senate office use only)

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NOTES:
Resolution Regarding the
Foreign Language Requirement of the General Education Program

Whereas the College at Brockport’s mission statement defines student success in part as preparing students for “civic engagement in a culturally diverse society and in globally interdependent communities”;

Whereas the College at Brockport’s spring 2010 General Education Task Force report defined “a liberally educated person living in the twenty-first century” in part as “one who has developed an appreciation of human and cultural differences...”;

Whereas the College at Brockport’s spring 2010 General Education Task Force report included the following as goals of the general education program:

“Students should leave their college experience being able to understand human existence from multiple perspectives and with the disposition to interact with their fellow humans in a respectful, collaborative, ethical, and empathetic manner, regardless of the differences among them.”

“Students should leave their college experience with the knowledge and understanding needed to exercise citizenship on a local, national, and global level—with an appreciation of how the world affects them and how their actions can affect the world.”

Whereas meaningful education in foreign language supports the mission of the College at Brockport and the goals of the general education program, not least because it includes and promotes cross-cultural education;

Whereas the College Senate voted to increase the general education foreign language requirement from 1 semester (111 level) to 2 semesters (112 level) in 1999-2000;

Whereas that change was not implemented until fall 2005 due to lack of resources;

Whereas since 2005 four tenured faculty members in the Foreign Language Department have retired (one in December 2010) but only two tenure-track faculty members have been hired;

Whereas the dramatically increased student demand and the somewhat reduced tenure-track and tenured faculty numbers have resulted in a ballooning of the temporary services budget to hire associate faculty to teach foreign language sections;

Whereas despite the hiring of associate faculty the majority of College at Brockport students (two thirds) meet the 2-semester foreign language requirement in their junior and senior year, by which time the foreign language skills they had developed in high school have waned, and when it is too late for this experience to inspire further foreign-language experiences at the undergraduate level;

Whereas given the current budget realities the College is not presently in a position to rectify the under-resourcing of the 2-semester requirement since 2005;
Whereas the Provost has asked for permanent reductions in temporary services spending;

Be it resolved:

1. That the College at Brockport general education program foreign language requirement be the 111 level semester, with 85 on the Regent's exam waiving and excluding students from 111. (This is pedagogically preferable to assuming that 85 on the Regent's exam is equivalent to competency in both 111 and 112 as originally recommended in the report of the spring 2010 Task Force on General Education.)

2. That all incoming first year students who graduated from high school in another state or another country must take the foreign language placement exam to potentially test out of the 111 requirement, or must provide the Foreign Languages Department documentary proof of at least 111-level competency in a foreign language.

3. That currently enrolled students will adopt the new requirement effective fall 2011. This means that those who have passed 111 or waivered out of 111 based on a Regent’s score, placement exam result, or permission of the Foreign Languages Department (as described in clause 2 above), will not have to take 112 for general education purposes. This will generate a reduction of 24 to 28 sections. With more than 85% of these sections taught by non-tenure-track/tenured personnel in the fall 2005-spring 2011 period, the savings are estimated as at least $50,000.

4. That during the 2011-12 academic year, all incoming first-year students will take the foreign language placement exam as a course completion requirement in GEP 100: Academic Planning Seminar. This will allow the College at Brockport’s Foreign Languages Department to test a key assumption in College Senate resolution #05_10-11GE, approved 12/13/10, which passed a new general education program including two semesters of foreign language. That assumption is that a substantial percentage of students will be waived from the two-semester foreign language requirement based on the foreign language placement test results.

5. That the external reviewers for the College at Brockport’s Periodic Program Review of our General Education Program in academic year 2011-2012 will be asked to examine the foreign language requirement.

6. That the new one-semester requirement will remain in place pending a Joint Action Plan developed during the 2012-2013 academic year and revisited by the College Senate, faculty and administration from the Periodic Program Review of the General Education Program.

7. That changes recommended by the Joint Action Plan will be implemented as soon as resources are available to support alternative requirements.