

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MOTION

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SUBJECT: Reorganizing the Advisory Subcommittees of the General Education Oversight Committee

SENATOR PROPOSING MOTION: José I. Juncosa, Jr.

SENATOR SECONDING MOTION: Thomas W. Lamey

MOTION: The Faculty Senate amends Section 6 of the GEOC standing rules to read as follows:

Section 6. GEOC Advisory Subcommittees

There shall be two Advisory Subcommittees of the General Education Oversight Committee:

- **Human and Societal Themes** ~~Humanities and Social Sciences~~, associated with the following General Education categories:
 - Communicating Through Writing
 - Human Experience
 - Humanity in Context
 - Social Issues
 - Social Configurations
 - Civic and Community Engagement
 - Diversity and Inclusion
- **Scientific and Experiential Learning Themes** ~~Natural Sciences and Bookends~~, associated with the following General Education categories:
 - Quantitative Analysis
 - Solutions Through Science
 - Hands On Science
 - First Year Seminar
 - Experiential Learning
 - Environmental Sustainability
 - Personal Health and Wellness

Each GEOC Advisory Subcommittee shall consist of five Faculty members, all elected at large by the Faculty. The GEOC Advisory Subcommittees shall be filled by eligible Faculty for three-year terms through elections run by the Membership and Elections Committee, following the same process as for other Senate committees. No more than one Faculty member from any one academic discipline may serve at the same time on a given Advisory Subcommittee, and no more than three members on a given Subcommittee may be from the same Unit. No Faculty member may serve on a given Advisory Subcommittee for more than six out of any seven consecutive academic years.

A Faculty member may not serve concurrently as a voting member of more than one Advisory Subcommittee of the General Education Oversight Committee. Faculty members serving concurrently as voting members of two Senate Standing Committees, or as voting members of the Senate and one Senate Standing Committee, are ineligible to serve within an Advisory Subcommittee of the GEOC. Participation in Senate Special Purpose Committees does not affect

eligibility to serve within an Advisory Subcommittee. Voting members of the General Education Oversight Committee may not serve on an Advisory Subcommittee of the GEOC.

If a member of an Advisory Subcommittee becomes ineligible through election to the Senate and/or to a Senate Standing Committee in excess of the limit stated above, or through election to the General Education Oversight Committee, they will be considered to have vacated their position on the Advisory Subcommittee at the time the eligibility criteria ceased to be met.

The seats for these subcommittees shall be filled by the Membership and Elections committee prior to the end of Fall 2025, for staggered 3-year terms beginning the semester after the election. Partial terms may be used by the Membership and Elections committee during this election to ensure proper staggering of the terms. The current subcommittees will cease to exist at the end of the semester this election takes place.

JUSTIFICATION:

Demands on Faculty at SU are currently very high. This is reflected in the high number of unfilled vacancies in committees and subcommittees of the Faculty Senate and other service bodies. The General Education Advisory Subcommittees are the single largest contributor to this problem from the Faculty Senate, with 40 seats needing to be filled in this category alone. Since the new General Education model has been up and running for a year, and the transition of pre-existing courses has largely been achieved, this amount of manpower is no longer needed for the GEOC subcommittees.

The Faculty Senate bylaws (Article VII, Section 16) describe the Advisory Subcommittees of the General Education Oversight Committee as follows:

The committee shall be supported by Advisory Subcommittees associated with specific General Education requirements. The number, structure, and composition of these subcommittees shall be explicitly described in the General Education Oversight Committee's standing rules.

The purposes of these subcommittees shall be to:

- A. Recommend guidelines for the alignment of courses with their assigned General Education requirements to the General Education Oversight Committee;
- B. Recommend the approval of specific courses for those requirements to the General Education Oversight Committee and, where courses are not recommended for approval, provide faculty with actionable advice for how they might be brought into alignment; and
- C. Provide support for evaluation and faculty development associated with those requirements as needed.

According to this text, the Faculty Senate has the power to reshape the GEOC subcommittees as it sees fit, with the only caveat being that the word "subcommittees" implies more than 1.

This motion proposes the reduction of the 8 subcommittees to 2 by merging their responsibilities based on an equal number of General Education categories, a similar workload (measured by the number of courses that have been approved to date), and a natural fit between some of these categories. A table detailing the number of approved courses by category is shown below:

Humanities and Social Sciences	Approved Courses		Natural Sciences and Bookends	Approved Courses
Communicating Through Writing	2		Quantitative Analysis	8
Human Experience	58		Solutions Through Science	26
Humanity in Context	34		Hands On Science	15
Social Issues	30		First Year Seminar	78
Social Configurations	35		Experiential Learning	38
Civic and Community Engagement	9		Environmental Sustainability	20
Diversity and Inclusion	36		Personal Health and Wellness	3
Total	204		Total	188

While the proposed subcommittee names might not capture every nuance of their assigned categories, they do represent the general theme of their responsibilities.

Other changes proposed include:

- The requirement for 150-word statements justifying the Faculty Member's qualifications to serve on the subcommittee has been removed. Crafting these statements was onerous for the candidates and greatly increased workload for the Membership and Elections committee. No other committee or subcommittee of the senate has this requirement. Also, having multiple General Education categories within each subcommittee will necessarily make these statements more general and thus less fit for purpose.
- Faculty members are no longer allowed to serve on more than one subcommittee at a time. Since there are only 10 seats remaining, having a diversity of voices should be prioritized.
- Some redundant language has been removed.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT:

Negative: The workload for the new Advisory Subcommittees will increase compared to the existing ones, although workload on these subcommittees has decreased since their creation and is in some cases nonexistent. Voters will have to decide on candidates without 150-word statements, just like all other Senate committees.

Positive: The number of seats required for these Advisory Subcommittees will be reduced from 40 to 10. The workload for candidates and the Membership and Elections committee will be greatly reduced.

Is this a recommendation to the Provost? Yes ___ No x ___

Is this a recommendation to someone else? No x ___ Yes, to _____

DATE: Number of Senators Present:

Votes in Favor:

Motion Passes or Fails: