

### **Resolution on General Education**

Passed unanimously on May 13, 2011

WHEREAS, the Doctoral Students' Council (DSC) understands and appreciates the many obstacles faced by CUNY undergraduates in obtaining their degrees and strongly supports expediting degree completion as long as those means are compatible with high academic standards;

**Plenary** WHEREAS, any measures to expedite degree completion must be based on a careful study of relevant data and designed under the auspices of strong faculty governance; and

**Steering Committee**  
**Constitution and Bylaws** WHEREAS, proposals being brought before the Board of Trustees conflate the issue of degree completion general education, calling for radical and wide-ranging changes to general education curriculum in a very short period of time;

**Media Board**  
**Health Issues** WHEREAS, general education remains the cornerstone of higher education, enriching students' perspectives by exposing them to various areas of study and better preparing them for a diverse and changing job market beyond the specialized training of their majors and minors;

**Cultural Affairs**  
**Professional Development** WHEREAS, the proposed framework, by restricting individual campus' ability to design and implement rigorous general education curricula and dramatically lowering the number of general education credits, significantly weakens CUNY's commitment to high academic standards; and

WHEREAS, the DSC represents over 4,700 members of the Graduate School who are simultaneously students and faculty within CUNY, responsible for developing and teaching a significant number of general education courses; therefore, now, be it

RESOLVED that the Doctoral Students' Council recognizes the central importance of general education in undergraduate education and opposes the significant reductions being proposed

FURTHER RESOLVED that the DSC urges the Board of Trustees to defer action on the proposed framework until a more careful and collaborative study of degree completion and transfer credits can be conducted; and

FINALLY RESOLVED that the DSC recognizes and supports strong principles of faculty governance that should guide, separately, the issues of degree completion and general education.