

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD
ACADEMIC SENATE

**Guideline associated with Criterion for Review 2.2a.
WASC Handbook of Accreditation**

RES 1213011

EC

RESOLVED: that the Academic Senate strongly disagrees with the proposed complete removal of the guideline associated with Criterion for Review 2.2a. of the WASC Handbook of Accreditation as proposed in the November 2012 Handbook revision.

RESOLVED: that the Academic Senate supports the inclusion of the proposed alternative language for the guideline that states “The institution has a program of General Education that is integrated throughout the curriculum, including at the upper division level, together with significant study in depth in a given area of knowledge (typically described in terms of a major).

Rationale

With the November revision of the Handbook for Accreditation, WASC proposed to remove the complete guideline associated with the criterion for review 2.2a. *Baccalaureate programs engage students in an integrated course of study of sufficient breadth and depth to prepare them for work, citizenship, and life-long learning. These programs ensure the development of core competencies including, but not limited to, written and oral communication, quantitative reasoning, information literacy, and critical thinking. In addition, baccalaureate programs actively foster creativity, innovation, an appreciation for diversity, ethical and civic responsibility, civic engagement, and the ability to work with others. Baccalaureate programs also ensure breadth for all students in cultural and aesthetic, social and political, and scientific and technical knowledge expected of educated persons. Undergraduate degrees include significant in-depth study in a given area of knowledge (typically described in terms of a program or major).* The guideline the proposal will remove states “*The institution has a program of General Education that is integrated throughout the curriculum, including at the upper division level, consisting of a minimum of 45 semester units (or the equivalent), together with significant study in depth in a given are of knowledge (typically described in terms of a major).* While we understand the issue connected to the inclusion of a specific minimum unit requirement and do not oppose its removal, we find that it is extremely important to include language that emphasizes the importance of general education in general and an upper division component of general education specifically. General Education plays an essential role in creating a properly educated graduate and this education cannot occur exclusively at the introductory, lower-division level.

Distribution List: President, Provost, Campus Senate Chairs

Approved by the Academic Senate on January 17, 2013

Sent to the President for approval on January 25, 2013

Approved by the President on April 3, 2013