Proposed Amendment to the General Education Framework

Motion: The General Education program will allow professional preparation programs to use general education courses to meet accrediting standards and certification requirements. The selection of courses for inclusion in General Education will include in the criteria the needs of the professional preparation programs. Professional preparation programs will be allowed to apply for waivers to substitute specific classes to ensure that longer programs do not exceed the current number of hours.

Justification: The General Education Framework presently does not specify courses. The process and criteria for selection of the courses for General Education have not been proposed. Unless the needs of professional preparation programs are among the criteria for course selection and the option for a waiver or substitution is allowed, present programs will become much longer in order to meet externally imposed requirements. Without assurance of flexibility in how the framework is used, there is the very real possibility of destroying programs by increasing the length of the programs. Examples include the dual major and certification programs in elementary or middle schools and special education. The No Child Left Behind Act has made it even more important that special education teachers are dually certified in regular and special education. These programs presently have two course waivers in general education and numerous course requirements that are met through present general education courses. Other professional preparation programs are facing the same possibility of longer programs depending on what courses are selected and how they are categorized in the future General Education Framework.

Failed due to lack of support.