

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Sense of Senate Resolution (SSR) Number 0213F

Date of Senate Approval 11/7/13

2013-11

Resolution on System-wide Core Competencies

Approved by the UNC Faculty Assembly

October 25, 2013

Whereas, the five-year strategic plan, “Our Time, Our Future: The UNC Compact with North Carolina” has defined as a major priority the implementation of system-wide assessments of academic core competencies; and

Whereas, the UNC Strategic Directions General Education Council has, after considered deliberation, recommended *Critical Thinking* and *Written Communication* as system-wide core competencies most appropriate for assessment; and

Whereas, the Faculty Assembly has resolved that the University of North Carolina, under the imprimatur of its constitutive faculty, must offer a general comprehensive education (as articulated in Resolution 2012-06); and

Whereas, the Faculty Assembly has also resolved that an effective curriculum is essential to the development of critical skills necessary for students to become productive citizens and leaders of North Carolina, and that faculty recognize these core competencies as vital to student success (as articulated in Resolution 2012-07); and

Whereas, the core competencies of *Critical Thinking* and *Written Communication* are widely recognized by faculty as expressions of a general comprehensive education and as fundamental requirements for successful mastery in all academic disciplines; and

Whereas, economic leaders in North Carolina and nationwide agree that *Critical Thinking* and *Written Communication* are fundamental to career success as cited in the Listening Sessions Summary (Strategic Directions Initiatives 2013-2018, Appendices) and

Whereas, our regional accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), periodically and comprehensively examines and affirms the quality of educational programs and requires that the institution place primary responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of the curriculum with its faculty;

Therefore, Be It Resolved That the Faculty Assembly endorses the General Education Council's choice of *Critical Thinking* and *Written Communication* as two system-wide core competencies for the UNC system; and

Be It Further Resolved That all core competencies adopted by the UNC system must be approved by the faculty of the constituent institutions on their respective campuses as required by their responsibilities for curricular matters; and

Be It Further Resolved That the faculty at the constituent institutions must have primary responsibility for the development and administration of assessment instruments consistent with the missions of their respective campuses.