

**Motion presented to Faculty Senate 3/29/11**  
**Foreign language requirement for transfer students**

**Motion**

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee unanimously recommends acceptance of the following motion:

Given that the General Education Transitional Plan (June 24, 2010) affects only new transfer students for the 2010-2011 academic year, the Faculty Senate reaffirms that the General Education Policies in effect in Fall 2009 should be applied for Fall 2011 and beyond. The Faculty Senate reaffirms its policy passed 3/5/2002 and amended 5/3/2005 that transfer students will have to meet the same General Education foreign language requirement as students who enter as freshmen in Fall 2013.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will appoint an implementation task force with joint faculty and administrative representation to prepare a report for the Faculty Senate by December 2011 detailing the costs and feasibility of this requirement. If the implementation task force concludes that implementation in Fall 2013 will not be possible, the Faculty Senate will reconsider the foreign language requirement for transfer students. It is not tenable to continue the long-standing situation of having a requirement that cannot be implemented. (Unanimous motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee).

**Explanation**

Our third-level foreign language requirement was instituted in 2000. There are program exceptions. Watson Engineering students have no foreign language requirement and Watson Computer Science and Nursing students have a first-level foreign language requirement. Transfer students were required to meet the State general education requirement for foreign language (first-level) and the third-level requirement was initially supposed to go into effect for transfer students in Fall 2004. The Provost waived the requirement for 2004 and in 2005 the Faculty Senate amended its 2002 foreign language policy statement to delay implementation for transfer students until Fall 2009. In December 2008, the Provost indicated that the policy could not be implemented for Fall 2009 because of resource issues, and the Provost issued a new temporary policy in June 2010 for Fall 2010 new transfers. The temporary policy has no foreign language requirement for transfer students.

The Foreign Language requirement passed by the Faculty Senate in 2002 remains in effect. It has simply never been fully implemented for transfer students. The report of the Task Force on General Education Issues discusses the difficulties involved in implementing the third-level foreign language requirement for transfer students and concludes that implementation will involve changing the way that foreign languages courses are structured and scheduled, commitment of faculty and support resources, and development of innovative approaches.