

## **Resolution to adopt updated General Education Student Learning Outcomes for Human Values and Social Contexts: Population and Environment**

Original statement from the General Education Implementation Guidelines for Population and Environment (ratified by the Senate 1996). *Courses included in the Population and Environment sub-category help students to understand how humankind interacts with our finite physical and biological environment. This understanding will be best achieved by a highly interdisciplinary approach that brings together aspects of the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities. Although the technical solutions to environmental problems will be based upon scientific knowledge, the goals to be set and the ethical, political, economic and social dimensions of meeting them are the domain of the humanities and social sciences, which therefore must constitute a major focus of the course.*

*Courses fulfilling this requirement should address the following:*

- a) the role of both local and global environmental change on the quality of human life;*
- b) the pervasive role of human population growth on environmental quality and the quality of life, both in industrial and developing countries;*
- c) the influence of cultural, religious, economic, educational, and political factors on population growth and environmental quality;*
- d) possible solutions to the population/environment problems, which may include the role of technological advancements, a reexamination of educational and political institutions, enlightened reassessment of traditional religious and economic conceptions, and rethinking of the contemporary Western conception of "the good life."*

The General Education Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate adopt and ratify the following updated and streamlined set of student learning outcomes for the Population and Environment general education subcategory. This change creates student learning outcomes that are clear, assessable, and understandable by students.

## **Proposed student learning outcomes and preamble:**

### **General Education Student Learning Outcomes**

#### **Human Values and Social Contexts: Population and Environment**

##### **Preamble**

Courses included in the Population and Environment sub-category help students to understand how humankind interacts with our finite physical and biological environment. This understanding can be fostered in different ways. Some courses may emphasize technical, scientific problems and solutions. Others may focus on institutional, historical, and political dimensions, and others may focus on the cultural, ethical, and philosophical issues underlying current environmental problems.

Courses fulfilling this requirement should address at least one of the following:

- a) the role of both local and global environmental change on the quality of human life;
- b) the pervasive role of human population growth on environmental quality and the quality of life, both in industrial and developing countries;
- c) the influence of historical, cultural, religious, economic, educational, and political factors on population growth and environmental quality;
- d) the ethical and philosophical assumptions underlying environmental policies and thinking about nature and the place of humans in nature;
- e) possible sustainable solutions to the population/environment problems.

**Student Learning Outcomes** Students completing the general education area of Population and Environment will be able to do at least one of the following:

- 1.) Recognize and understand the role of both local and global environmental change on the quality of human life,
- 2.) Describe the influence of diverse factors, such as philosophical, cultural, religious, economic, educational, and political, on population growth and environmental quality,
- 3.) Understand the concepts and principles necessary to evaluate contemporary issues of population growth, natural resource conservation, and environmental protection,
- 4.) Interpret diverse types of information about environmental issues, to develop their own perspectives on these issues, and to communicate these perspectives effectively,
- 5.) Understand and describe technical and/or scientific approaches for addressing problems that arise in the relationship between human population and the environment.

