

**TO:** The University Senate  
**FROM:** Educational Policy Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Degree Requirement for Civics Literacy  
**DISPOSITION:** University Senate for Discussion and Adoption  
**REFERENCE:** *Requirements for Degrees: B. Baccalaureate Degree at* <http://catalog.purdue.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=12724>  
**PROPOSAL:** Establish a baccalaureate degree requirement for civics literacy.  
**RATIONALE:** Education leaders stress the need to include learning that is related to the development of individuals' civic capacity throughout all years of schooling in the United States. A report commissioned by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Task Force on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement, an initiative of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, made an urgent call to higher education institutions in the United States to make civic literacy, inquiry, and action part of the educational objectives to be achieved by every college graduate. This plan would involve adopting long-term, measurable standards to indicate the extent to which college students are gaining a civic perspective during their postsecondary education.

**PROPOSED ACTION:**

Establish a baccalaureate degree requirement for civics literacy. Students would meet the requirement by fulfilling the following: successful completion of a civics literacy exam and completion one of the following three options: 1) 3.0 hours of relevant course work (e.g., relevant introductory course in US politics, public policy, history or other course with civic knowledge content); or 2) successful completion of Center for C-SPAN Scholarship and Engagement modules; or 3) attendance at civics-related Purdue-hosted and -sponsored events involving a substantially equivalent number of contact hours.

**Education Policy Committee Votes:**

For:

Andy Freed  
Fredrick Berry  
Julius Keller  
Jennifer Fecher  
Donna Ferullo  
Nan Kong

Against:

Eric Kvam

Abstain:

Jeffery Stefancic  
Sandy Monroe