The University Senate

Educational Policy Committee

Degree Requirement for Civics Literacy

University Senate for Discussion and Adoption

Requirements for Degrees: B. Baccalaureate Degree at
http://catalog.purdue.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=12724

Establish a baccalaureate degree requirement for civics literacy.

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.

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: Frank Dooley, Stephen Martin, Grace Rich, Libby Richards, Keith Gehres, Hossein EbrahiminNejad
Abstain: Eric Kvalm, Jeffery Stefancic, Sandy Monroe