

SGA

Student Government Association
St. Olaf College

Dear St. Olaf College Faculty,

Attached below you will find a Student Senate Resolution in support of a group of students who have articulated a message worthy of thoughtful conversation and engagement on our campus. The resolution below comes with the full, enthusiastic support of campus-wide student representatives.

This resolution was approved by the Student Government Association Student Senate unanimously on October 7th, 2014. Our body contains representatives from every area of campus (including all residence halls, representatives to faculty committees, special constituencies, and SGA branch coordinators). With our affirmation comes the student body's affirmation, and with the student body's affirmation, we sincerely hope we have earned your careful consideration.

The Student Curriculum Initiative, who brought this issue to our attention, has been working on potential solutions to the issues within our General Education Requirements and their proposed action plan for moving forward is measured, thoughtful, and sincere. They have already spoken with the Curriculum and Student Life faculty committees and now, with the support of the student body, they deliver their proposal to the full faculty committee.

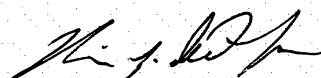
We recognize that the issue of GE reconsideration is the beginning of a time-consuming and lengthy process that will continue long after many of us have graduated. We also recognize, however, that conversations must be had now in order to effect positive change for our community's future. Difficult discussions and rigorous standards must stand strong in the face of apathy and we, as the representatives of the student body, believe in the strength of St. Olaf College's academic community.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

All the best,



Rachel Palermo '15
SGA President



Nick Stumo-Langer '15
SGA Vice President

**Resolution of the
St. Olaf Student Senate
October 7th, 2014**

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Preamble: The St. Olaf Student Senate has been approached by the Student Curriculum Initiative, a group of students from various class years and majors who are concerned with the status of the current general education requirements and curriculum. Specifically, they believe that the MCD and MCG requirements, though well-intentioned, do not adequately address issues of power, inequality, privilege, and systems of oppression. The Student Curriculum Initiative believe that these topics need to be *explicitly* addressed in the curriculum for a number of reasons, outlined below.

Whereas, we, as students and citizens, need to be able to “talk across difference” -- to understand, communicate and interact with people from different backgrounds and experiences (including race, class, gender, sexual orientation, abilities, nationality, ethnicity, religious beliefs, etc., and the intersections between them); and

Whereas, we need to understand how structural inequalities, power, and privilege impact our everyday relationships and interactions; and

Whereas, the years following the establishment of the MCD and MCG requirements (in 1994) have seen the continued development of an enormous body of academic theory (including critical race theory, queer theory, feminist theory, post-colonial theory, etc.); and

Whereas, these recent developments in critical academic thought are a necessary part of any liberal arts education; therefore

Resolved, The St. Olaf Student Senate acknowledges the aforementioned gaps in our current curriculum.

Resolved, The Senate, as a representative of the St. Olaf College student body, recognizes the need to begin a collaborative conversation to address these issues in our curriculum.

Resolved, The Senate supports the Student Curriculum Initiative’s request to present these specific curricular concerns at a full faculty meeting (likely in November).


Student Senate

Nick Stumo-Langer '15
SGA Vice President & Senate Chair