

**Main Campus Executive Faculty Resolutions Concerning the Report,
Intellectual Life at Georgetown University 2006-2007:
The Undergraduate Experience**

The Main Campus Executive Faculty spent several months discussing the 2006-2007 Intellectual Life Report and passed the following resolutions as a result of those discussions. Many of these resolutions endorse the recommendations contained in the Report either directly or with minor modifications. A few are resolutions inspired by the discussions but are not directly related to specific recommendations in the report. And others represent significant changes to the Report's recommendations.

This first resolution was adopted at the Executive Faculty's first meeting following receipt of the report.

Whereas the Intellectual Life Report Review Committee has completed its examination of the progress made on the recommendations contained in the 1996-1997 Report, has identified new issues concerning the intellectual life of undergraduates at Georgetown and has presented its report to the Main Campus Executive Faculty,

Be it resolved that:

The Main Campus Executive Faculty expresses its appreciation to the committee for its work.

The Main Campus Executive Faculty create a standing Committee on Intellectual Life. The Committee will monitor implementation of the recommendations passed by the Executive Faculty and identify other aspects of intellectual life on campus that warrant further study. The committee will report at least annually to the Main Campus Executive Faculty.

Motion passed: 20 in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 abstaining, April 20, 2007

Section 1. Georgetown's Image

RECOMMENDATION 1.1: That the statement on the first page of the University Prospectus be revised to say:

“ . . . being so near the centers of business, technology, the arts, and government has made this the perfect place to pursue a very old ideal, part of the tradition of Georgetown's Jesuit founders. Knowledge is pursued for its own sake and to effect change in the world. The life of the mind is for the life of the world. Education should make a difference. The best life to live is one combining contemplation and action.”

RECOMMENDATION 1.2: That the university demonstrate continued attention to the form and content of academic ceremonies.

RECOMMENDATION 1.3: That the faculty be involved in crafting the overall image of the university.

RECOMMENDATION 1.4: That a faculty-student committee, made up equally of faculty and students, be established to review annually campus tours and the materials used to train tour leaders. As a useful framework, we recommend that campus tours project the intellectual image the university wants for itself by emphasizing *equally* Georgetown's Identity, Fun Facts, and Academic Achievements of Students and Faculty.

Motion to approve recommendations 1.1 – 1.4 passed 20 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstaining, April 20, 2007.

Section 2. Admissions

RECOMMENDATION 2.1: That alumni interviewers be kept informed of faculty research highlights and student research opportunities at Georgetown and that they actively use them as a recruitment tool.

RECOMMENDATION 2.2: That the Admissions Office develop a comprehensive plan to advertise undergraduate research opportunities at Georgetown University, that it tie these opportunities to admissions and recruitment practices, and that the Admissions Office present a plan for achieving these goals to the Main Campus Executive Faculty's standing Committee on Intellectual Life no later than March 2008.

RECOMMENDATION 2.3: That the university's decision to create a 500 million dollar endowment for financial aid remain a high priority.

RECOMMENDATION 2.4: That the Georgetown Scholarship Program continue and be expanded.

RECOMMENDATION 2.5: That the diversity goals at Georgetown include socioeconomic diversity alongside racial, religious, and ethnic diversity.

Motion to approve recommendations 2.1 – 2.5 passed: 20 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstaining, April 20, 2007

Section 3. Student Culture and Intellectual Life

RECOMMENDATION 3.1: That the Office of Student Affairs should develop a proposal to strengthen the Faculty-in-Residence program, including an option of adding apartments in each of the first year residence halls.

RECOMMENDATION 3.2: That the Office of Student Affairs implement ways of best addressing the problem of drinking on campus, including the best way of providing online alcohol education.

RECOMMENDATION 3.3: That the administration provide faculty with guidance on how to deal with concerns that a student may be experiencing mental health problems.

RECOMMENDATION 3.4: That student affairs promote and facilitate student-faculty contact in order to enrich student culture and to promote intellectual life.

RECOMMENDATION 3.5: That fund-raising for the purpose of increasing and enhancing extra-curricular faculty-student activities be undertaken.

RECOMMENDATION 3.6: That the University Registrar provides the Executive Faculty with alternative plans for beginning the academic year.

RECOMMENDATION 3.7: That the New South Student Center be actively pursued in the quiet phase of the capital campaign.

RECOMMENDATION 3.8: That efforts to encourage engagement with Washington, DC and to participate in community or public service in ways that facilitate academic enrichment be integrated into the Undergraduate Learning Initiative component of the capital campaign.

Motion to approve recommendations 3.2, 3.4, 3.5 passed 20 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstaining, April 20, 2007. Motion to approve recommendation 3.1 passed 19 in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstaining, May 5, 2007. Motion to approve recommendation 3.3 passed 19 in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstaining, May 5, 2007. Motions to approve recommendations 3.6 and 3.8 were approved unanimously (get numbers), September 28, 2007. Motion to approve recommendation 3.7 passed with one abstention (get numbers), September 28, 2007.

Section 4. First-Year Student Experiences at Georgetown

RECOMMENDATION 4.1: In order to improve communication between faculty and students, faculty should communicate their availability and willingness to meet with students outside the classroom.

Motion to approve recommendation 4.1 passed 20 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstaining, April 20, 2007.

Section 5. Life on Campus, Study, Work, Party

RECOMMENDATION 5.1: As a general expectation, on average students should devote at least two hours a week per credit hour outside of class meetings to course work. This expectation should be communicated at new student orientation and new faculty

orientation as well as communicated to adjunct faculty and made available on the Executive Faculty web site.

Motion to approve recommendation 5.1 passed 17 in favor, 6 opposed, and 0 abstaining, March 28, 2008.

Related resolution (not part of the Intellectual Life Report):

Whereas, the Intellectual Life Report expresses a concern about grade inflation on the Main Campus as well as a concern that courses should offer our students a more serious academic challenge,

Be it resolved that:

1) Department chairs engage their colleagues in a conversation about these issues, and bring to their collective attention the importance of both concerns;

Be it also resolved that:

2) The Registrar's Office be asked to resume the practice of sending to Department chairs each semester a listing of the grades awarded in every course offered in the department, and that chairs speak with those ordinary and non-ordinary faculty whose grading patterns depart egregiously from the guidelines established by the Executive Faculty;

Be it also resolved that:

3) Department chairs take note of the "hours worked" portion of student evaluation forms and speak with those ordinary and non-ordinary faculty whose demands on students appear to depart substantially from the demands made by their peers;

Be it finally resolved that:

4) Department chairs take note of consistent patterns of egregious grade inflation and failure to challenge our students and, if necessary, take such patterns into account in the rehiring of non-ordinary faculty.

The resolution was approved with 20 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions, March 28, 2008.

Section 6. Academic Standards

RECOMMENDATION 6.1: That grade guidelines approved by the Main Campus Executive Faculty be distributed to each faculty member at the beginning of the semester and again prior to submitting final grades, as well as posted on appropriate websites.

RECOMMENDATION 6.2: That departments be charged with the responsibility of (1) informing non-ordinary faculty of the grade distribution guidelines and the recommended number of hours of study per credit hours and (2) instructing non-ordinary faculty on why the guidelines for grades and hours studied exist. Departments should follow the guidelines approved by the MCEF unless resource limitations preclude their use.

RECOMMENDATION 6.3: That new faculty and new student orientation each year should include a presentation and discussion of the Main Campus grade distribution guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION 6.4: That tables summarizing grade distributions by department, produced each year by the Office of the Registrar, be sent to all faculty members.

RECOMMENDATION 6.5: That, after the entry of final grades in Faculty Access, a histogram of course grades be automatically displayed along with a comparison to the Main Campus guidelines.

Motion to approve recommendations 6.1-6.5 approved with 18 in Favor, and 4 Opposed on January 25, 2008.

RELATED RESOLUTION (not contained in the Intellectual Life Report):

Whereas grade inflation continues to be a problem at Georgetown and elsewhere;

Whereas both faculty and students are concerned that reducing grades assigned at Georgetown below those assigned at our peers might disadvantage Georgetown students unless greater information were to be provided;

Whereas studies have found that course selection is influenced by the grading reputation of the professor;

Whereas providing average course grades along with an individual student's grade on transcripts will provide a more accurate indicator of that student's performance in the class and may encourage students to enroll in more difficult classes;

Be it resolved that a student's transcript include the student's grade, mean class grade and class size for each class taken by the student.

Resolution approved 17 in Favor, 3 Opposed, 0 Abstaining, February 22, 2008.

Section 7. General Education

RECOMMENDATION 7.1: That Georgetown undertake a review of the structure of the curriculum, especially the general education requirement. This review should be undertaken with strong consideration of the broader curricular goals discussed in the report.

Motion to approve recommendation 7.1 passed 24 in favor, 2 opposed, and 0 abstaining, October 19, 2007.

Section 8. Science

RECOMMENDATION 8.1: That the University recognize the importance of the sciences to the university's intellectual future by continuing its ongoing efforts to construct a new science building, to hire thirty-five new faculty, and to renovate the Reiss Science Building, and by exploring the expansion of the role of the sciences at Georgetown.

Motion to approve recommendation 8.1 passed 20 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstaining, April 20, 2007.

Section 9. Curricula and Pedagogy

RECOMMENDATION 9.1: That there be a continued examination and renewal of each year's academic experiences with special attention paid to the consequences of how courses are taught and staffed (that is, by ordinary, full-time non-ordinary, or part-time adjunct faculty).

RECOMMENDATION 9.3: That Curriculum Enrichment Grants be continued and expanded, with the goal of giving every lower division course access to enrichment funds.

RECOMMENDATION 9.4: That research workshops along the lines of the Carroll Round for Undergraduates in Economics or the Phi Alpha Theta history conferences be developed at Georgetown in disciplines and interdisciplinary fields.

RECOMMENDATION 9.5: (a) That undergraduate research opportunities be expanded through GUROP and other fellowship opportunities. (b) We also recommend expansion of capstone research experiences across the campus, and continued experimentation with new forms of those experiences. We recommend that culminating research experiences begin no later than the first semester of the senior year.

RECOMMENDATION 9.6: That a task force be established to examine the ways in which resources to support undergraduates in developing, and faculty in mentoring, skills to carry out independent intellectual work could be expanded, including the expansion of student services for quantitative thinking, analysis, and research.

RECOMMENDATION 9.7: That courses have early and challenging assignments followed by prompt assessment of performance and frequent feedback, especially for first-year students. When necessary to implement this recommendation the dean should work with the department to supply the required resources.

RECOMMENDATION 9.8: That academically meaningful and rigorous models for integrating curricular learning with learning and experience outside the classroom be developed with consideration of study abroad, community-based learning, and internships. We also recommend that these directions be cultivated in close coordination

with the Council of Associate Deans so that they might be viewed as coherent campus-wide opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION 9.9: That the institutional funding for effective teaching practices, initiated out of the 1996-97 report, be further strengthened and made stable through endowment funds obtained under the rubric of the Undergraduate Learning Initiative and the upcoming capital campaign.

RECOMMENDATION 9.10: That the Main Campus continue to emphasize activities that promote effective pedagogical practices, such as the expansion of New Faculty Orientation, and the dissemination of information about effective syllabus design and assessment.

RECOMMENDATION 9.11: That a standing committee be established to coordinate and strengthen the breadth and depth of student learning. This committee should be faculty-led but administratively supported, and distinct from the Intellectual Life Committee convened by the Main Campus Executive Faculty in the first recommendation of this report.

Motion to approve recommendation 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.10 passed 20 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstaining, April 20, 2007. Motion to approve recommendation 9.1 passed 28 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, October 19, 2007. Motion to approve Recommendation 9.11 passed 20 in favor, 0 opposed, October 19, 2007. Motion to approve recommendations 9.6, 9.7, 9.8, and 9.9 passed 26 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain, January 25, 2008.