

**DRAFT - Fields of Study Curriculum Resolution - DRAFT**

Whereas the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the American Council on Education (ACE), and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges are, respectively, the leading associations of higher education faculty, higher education upper administrators, and higher education governing boards.

Whereas their joint statement on governance lays out the basic and necessary division of responsibilities and authority among and between their respective constituencies: faculty, administrations, and governing boards.

Whereas “the faculty sets the requirements for the degrees offered in course, determines when the requirements have been met, and authorizes the president and board to grant the degrees thus achieved” (*AAUP Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities, Section 5*).

Whereas this authority flows from the fact that the faculty teach their institution’s courses. Courses should represent the state of knowledge in their respective disciplines, and they vary according to the type of institution, place of the specific course in the curriculum, student preparation, the program, and the faculty; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the fields of study requirements promulgated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB):

- threaten the authority and responsibility of higher education faculty to design curriculum,
- threaten the ability of institutions to properly and adequately prepare students in their degree programs as a result of unintended consequences related to preparedness, certification, and accreditation,
- are inconsistent with the accreditation required of public higher education institutions in Texas by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), and
- are fundamentally inconsistent with American ideals of intellectual freedom and higher education law.

*Let it be further resolved*, that we reject the November 20 claim made by Ray Paredes that under the Fields of Study Curriculum (FOSC) faculty would retain control over the curriculum. With small faculty committees managing the lower-level undergraduate curricula to be applied uniformly to every public institution of higher education, a small few, under the coordination of the THECB would retain control of the curriculum.

*We support* coordination of requirements between Texas four-year institutions and community colleges, but such coordination must be done by local agreements between institutions offering four-year programs and the community colleges. It should not be done in a way that erodes the ability and authority of faculty in four-year institutions to design the curriculum that best benefits their students.