

## Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards Committee

### Motion Regarding Relocation of Bachelor of General Studies to Liberal Arts

November 4, 2011

The SLA Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards Committee recommends to the Faculty Assembly of the School of Liberal Arts that students formerly enrolled in the Bachelor of General Studies degree program through the School of Continuing Studies be housed within the School of Liberal Arts as their new degree-granting school.

#### Background

In May 2011 President McRobbie announced his decision to close the School of Continuing Studies. A working group was formed to make recommendations related to the future of the Bachelors Degree in General Studies (BGS) offered through that School at IUPUI. One recommendation made by this working group in its Transition Report (posted online) is to move the BGS intact to the School of Liberal Arts. The Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards Committee was asked to assess the feasibility of this recommendation and make a recommendation to the Faculty Assembly. After much deliberation and study, we recommend that SLA serve as the new degree-granting school for the BGS.

#### Rationale for the Proposed Change

- The BGS is a degree that serves a student niche that IUPUI must continue to serve: adult students, returning students, veterans, employed people who need a degree for job advancement, and Ivy Tech students who have completed an Associates Degree in General Studies.
- Out of all the possible academic homes for the degree, the School of Liberal Arts appears to be the best fit. Degree requirements for the BGS and a degree in Liberal Arts are fairly similar (see attachments). In addition, the profile of BGS students is very similar to that of SLA students, except for higher graduation rates among the BGS students (see attachment).
- The program could be transitioned to SLA at zero cost to the school. The majority of credit hours taken by BGS students are Liberal Arts and the resources they generate are already (and will continue to be) credited to the School. Academic advising and administration of the program will continue to be provided through CALL (the Center for Adult and Life-Long Learning), so we anticipate no additional costs to SLA.