

Resolution 27-02

Authors: Vice President Ghosh, Garretson Oester

Co-Sponsors:

Date Presented: February 26, 2018

A Resolution in Support of the Student Feedback on the CUE Report

Whereas, Vice President Ghosh and Garretson Oester have been appointed as the Student Representatives to the Commission on the Undergraduate Experience and the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education,

Whereas, The two undertook to solicit feedback from the USG as well as all seven other Student Presidents' Roundtable Boards,

Whereas, the academic units of the University were requested to provide written feedback on the CUE Report

Whereas, Vice President Ghosh and Mr. Oester, acting in their capacity on the CUE, have summarized the undergraduate student opinion in the Student Feedback Letter

Whereas, the Student Presidents' Roundtable has been consulted on the final version of the Student Feedback Letter

Be it resolved by the Undergraduate Student Government, acting in full session,

- I. Endorses the Student Feedback Letter signed by Vice President Ghosh and Mr. Oester
- II. Encourages the other boards to publicize their support of the Student Feedback Letter
- III. That this resolution be sent in full to:
 - A. President Barbara Snyder, Case Western Reserve University
 - B. Provost William "Bud" Baeslack III, Case Western Reserve University
 - C. Vice President Louis Stark, Case Western Reserve University
 - D. Gary Chotiner, Chair - FSCUE, Case Western Reserve University
 - E. Kimberly Emmons, Chair - CUE, Case Western Reserve University
 - F. Cyrus Taylor, Dean - CAS, Case Western Reserve University
 - G. James McGuffin-Cawley - Interim Dean, CSE, Case Western Reserve University
 - H. Manoj Malhotra - Dean, WSOM, Case Western Reserve University
 - I. Mary Kerr - Dean, FBPSO, Case Western Reserve University

To whom it may concern,

The undergraduate experience is at the core of Case Western Reserve University, linking teaching and research within our vibrant campus. Since the release of the previous exploration of what is possible for undergraduates with the PCUL in 2001, our university is more financial secure, has brighter and more engaged students, and is more widely respected. But, sixteen entering classes later, there is still much to be done.

Having solicited feedback from the overlapping organizations which, collectively represent every undergraduate on this campus, we have seen a broad base of engaged support for the work of the Commission on the Undergraduate Experience. Students are not satisfied with where this institution is and are excited to imagine where it could go. There were three main areas that most feedback was centered on:

1. Curriculum

When polled, a vast majority undergraduate students of the University were vastly in support of the necessary changes in curriculum identified in the CUE report. This was primarily focused around reduction in overall workload and increasing flexibility in academics, two points identified as root cause factors for a majority of undergraduate stress. Ultimately, students want to shape their curriculum to meet their goals, something that this institution should do a better job at achieving within the final report.

- a. Applicants choose Case Western Reserve because our single-door admission promotes flexibility. Upon arrival, however, many students are immediately siloed into schools and departments, creating immediate divisions across an institution they know as one University. Therefore, a unified GER spanning all disciplines is supported to create a shared and rigorous experience for undergraduate students that complements what we hope will be deeper ties within departments.
- b. While the ethos of the Explore curriculum is welcomed and overall encouraged, students expressed concerns that in promoting exploration it might actually restrict room for diverse courses, and so students are interested in seeing the combination of this and the GER recommendations that also considers the SAGES program..
- c. The third major recommendation put forward is that a stronger emphasis on sustainability, diversity and ethics be integrated into a new curriculum, regardless of final form or shape. While the current CUE recommendations suggest that sustainability education be better included in SME, strong encouragement has been expressed that this be extended across all disciplines. This should expand beyond the curricular element to foster these pillars of educating citizens to all areas of the University.

2. Advising

Furthermore, students are vastly in support of improving advising across the many realms where it may be encountered. They are not set on the current advising approach, but broadly feel that having greater continuity outside of a specific academic advisor would bring and feel that faculty have shortcomings when it comes to professional opportunities or curricular choices outside of clear discipline-dependent paths. More importantly, students all agree that the student-faculty relationship is transactional in nature, something we hope is undesirable for all parties. We

encourage a final draft to consider ways to foster greater personal ties between professors and students to promote greater investment in each others lives.

3. Student Life

Students were, in general, unimpressed with the student life proposals, and nearly every student spoken with had numerous tangible ideas to improve the daily non-curricular experiences. These included extensive ideas about the calendar, residential experience, student organizations, physical space, and intersections between academics and these other realms. Furthermore, students expressed a desire to expand and establish a set of traditions that define this institution and its quirky past for all members of the University..

At its core, all of our discussion is centered around the idea of depth and breadth. Students both dive into their majors with intense coursework and research, while also trying to reach across additional majors and minors, a multitude of extracurricular activities, so time for what is fun and what centers them is lost. We are not satisfied with where this institution is, an want to see that

Case Western Reserve University is poised for launch to greater heights, and out of everyone undergraduate spoken with, there was an excitement about how we were going to get there. This institution is innovative, creative, and strives to prove itself, we should harness these traits. While the CUE proposals may not be perfect for each faculty member, collectively, these proposals are the right step forward, because to do nothing is to fall behind. Students want this institution to be the best it can possible be, and we expect you to want the same. Case Western Reserve does not just *think beyond the possible*, we *do the impossible*, and ultimately *we change the world*.

Yours sincerely,

Prince Ghosh and Garretson Oester

Undergraduate Student Representatives

Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education

Provost's Committee on the Undergraduate Experience