WHEREAS: The Final Report of the Taskforce on General Education, in its report of April 4, 1979, recommends “That campuses seek ways of giving general education sufficient potency within the organizational structure to ensure adequate supervision, integrity, and fiscal academic support” (p. 5, No. 7); and

WHEREAS: Executive Order 338, General Education-Breadth Requirements, recommends for General Education Program Responsibility the creations on each campus of a “standing committee, the majority of which shall be instructional faculty, and which also includes student membership” (p. 5, No. VI/A); and

WHEREAS: President Paul Romberg, in his approval of the New General Education Program, #F80-64, questions whether or not it was the Academic Senate’s intention to permit service on General Education bodies by academic administrators such as Associate Deans and Deans; and

WHEREAS: Senate policy recommendation #F80-64 give to the General Education Council the responsibility to “monitor and review those procedures to be used in electing members to the various committees of the Council” (p. 21, No. 4); and

WHEREAS: The General Education Council, in Fall, 1980, approved and implemented an approval process which clearly differentiates the regular University course approval procedure involving the Associate Deans’ Course Review Committee from the approval procedure for General Education courses developed to meet the general objectives and learning outcomes as stated in the New General Education Program document; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the General Education Council formally recommend to the Academic Senate that, because of the inherently different perspectives and a potential conflict of interest between the Course Review Committee process and the General Education process, Associate Deans and Deans of the various Schools be ineligible for service on the General Education Council and its Segment Committees; and be it further

RESOLVED: That because of the above Resolved, the General Education Council formally request that those Schools which already have elected Deans or Associate Deans to the Council and its Segment Committees hold new elections.
Academic Senate Policy Recommendation #S77-15

At its meeting of March 1, 1977, the Academic Senate approved the following:

PROPOSAL FOR A GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

I. General Scope. The General Education Council (GEC) is the principal University body responsible for establishing goals and criteria and for review and evaluation of the General Education curriculum. It is responsible furthermore for recommending policies and procedures governing the development, implementation and administration of that curriculum to the Educational Policies Committee.

II. Over-all Responsibilities. After having responded to matters of immediate concern, (see V below and the attached initial charge), the GEC will be responsible for the following on a continuing basis:

1. Recommending desired competencies and capabilities in basic subjects, humanities and arts, behavioral and social sciences and natural and physical sciences.
2. Reviewing and recommending action on proposals for modifications to the General Education program.
3. Reviewing and recommending action on proposals for General Education credit through course work, alternative learning experiences, credit by examination and performance on standardized tests.
4. Monitoring and recommending improvements in the General Education program, in particular as concerns advising, teaching, structure and determination of competencies.
5. Evaluation of the General Education program as a whole, specific courses, and other aspects of the program. This evaluation will include evaluations by students. A formal evaluation and report will be submitted no later than every fifth year.

III. Relationship to the EPC and the Senate.

1. The GEC shall make its recommendations in writing to the EPC. After review, the EPC will forward its own recommendations to the Senate for action.
2. The GEC shall make an annual report to the Senate at the end of each spring semester, beginning with Spring, 1997.

IV. Composition, Terms of Service and Chair. The GEC shall be composed of twelve (12) voting members as follows:
1. Six (6) faculty to be selected as follows: nominations to the GEC shall be sent to the Academic Senate, together with brief position papers from those nominated; the Academic Senate shall elect nine (9) candidates from those nominated and forward them to the President; the President shall select six (6) faculty to serve on the GEC. Following the initial elections, three (3) members are to be selected annually, and they shall be named by the President from a list of five faculty nominated by the Academic Senate. Faculty shall serve two-year terms, except that those initially elected shall draw lots so that one-half of them will serve for 3 years.

2. One (1) member of EPC appointed by that committee for a 1-year term;

3. Three (3) students selected by the Associated Students for 1-year terms; and

4. Two (2) ex officio members, the Associate Provost and the Director of All-University Programs.

5. The GEC shall elect one of its members as Chair for a 1-year term. The Chair shall receive assigned time equivalent to that applied to the Chairs of Senate standing committees.

V. Periodic Charges by the EPC. From time to time, the EPC will make specific charges to the GEC, the first of which is attached to this proposal. The GEC is instructed to respond to this and other charges as expeditiously as possible, in order that a revised General Education curriculum might be in place at SFSU by fall semester, 1979.

Initial EPC Charge to the General Education Council

The Report of the President’s Long Range Planning Commission strongly recommended that the University “immediately address itself to the task of constructing a new General Education program®structured in terms of significant areas of competence.” Using the various recommendations of that report, together with the 1968 Sheedy report on General Education, and the report of the EPC’s sub-committee on General Studies review, the General Education Council is charged to undertake the following activities and to make recommendations based upon them:

1. To ask those Schools which have not already done so to create School-based General Education committees; to request from the School committees an identification of the competencies, understandings and perspectives expected of students in basic subjects, arts and humanities, social and behavioral sciences and natural and physical sciences; and to submit plans for determining which courses (both disciplinary and interdisciplinary) and alternative learning experiences develop those competencies, understandings and perspectives.

2. To review the basic structure of the General Education and statutory requirement components of the baccalaureate curriculum and to recommend changes in that structure as appropriate.

3. To identify the general life skills and capabilities to be developed by General Education and to submit a plan for determining which courses and alternative learning experiences develop those skills and capabilities.

4. To investigate the question of upper division requirements in General Education, including specifically:


1. The problems vertical distribution would cause for transfer students and solution to these problems;
2. The retention or modification of the Senior Integrative Seminars; and
3. The possibility of instituting mechanism for assessing student General Education capabilities prior to graduation.

5. To study the specific application to General Education of the recommendations expected from the Presidential Task Force on Advising and to make recommendations of its own for improving the quality of General Education advising.

At an appropriate time after the five specifications listed above have been undertaken, the GEC will be asked by the EPC to prepare a plan for the review and approval of all courses and alternative learning experiences submitted for certification as meeting the University’s General Education requirements. A specific charge will be prepared by the EPC at that time.

Approved: March 4, 1977