Resolution for the Reinstatement of the Academic and Global Communications Program

Whereas the Academic and Global Communication (AGC) program (formerly ELIP) is proposed to be eliminated at the end of 2020-21 academic year primarily due to budget issues; and

Whereas the elimination of the AGC program will discontinue important courses and support in English writing and communication skills and hinder the English language and academic writing skill development of graduate students, both international and domestic; and

Whereas the termination of the AGC program shifts the burden of student English language support previously provided by AGC to other faculty, who already have full workloads and are not trained in these fields or appropriate teaching techniques for language training; and

Whereas closing the AGC program will remove necessary language training support for Graduate Student Teaching Assistants, especially non-native English speakers, and thus potentially affecting instructional quality and the undergraduate learning experience adversely; and

Whereas the elimination of the AGC program involves curricular matters and the University Curriculum Council (UCC) was established in order to discharge Faculty Senate's responsibilities with respect to curricular matters, including making recommendations that include “addition, relocation, and deletion of academic programs and degrees,”; and

Whereas Graduate Council is charged with making recommendations to UCC concerning the elimination of graduate programs and degrees at Ohio University, and has recommended reinstatement of the AGC program; and

Whereas Graduate Student Senate has passed a resolution in support of the reinstatement of the AGC program; and

Whereas Action Item #7 of the International Opportunities Think Tank final recommendations draft report (dated 3.25.2021) suggested a “commitment of Ohio University to provide support for international students to succeed at OHIO as well as beyond it. Assistance with English language, thesis/dissertation writing, degree completion, legal aspects, interview preparedness, and in securing jobs, is essential”;

Be it resolved, that UCC, with support from Graduate Council, recommends that the AGC program be reinstated before Fall Semester of the 2021-2022 academic year, when the University expects more international students to arrive on campus, or that its reorganization ensures continuation of the same level of curricular support and services that were previously offered by AGC (and ELIP) to OHIO students, and
Be it further resolved, that UCC, with support from Graduate Council, recommends that academic units providing graduate programs work together to create a funding formula to support the AGC in a way that reflects the benefits to multiple colleges; and

Be it further resolved that UCC, with support from Graduate Council, requests information transparency to all university constituents for how the university has reorganized the curricular offerings and academic support that had been provided previously by the AGC (and ELIP) program.