MOTION TO APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE STATEMENT
“FACULTY SENATE OVERSIGHT OF THE GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS”

The Faculty Senate recommends adoption of the document entitled “Faculty Senate Oversight of the General Announcements,” dated April 20, 2011, as official Rice University policy.

Motion approved by the Faculty Senate
April 20, 2011

Faculty Senate Oversight of the General Announcements

1. The General Announcements provide the most reliable statement of the curriculum and both the faculty and administration’s commitment to staff and fully resource programs that appear therein. As such, all changes relevant to these matters in the General Announcements are subject to either ex-ante or ex-post Faculty Senate review.

2. Ex-Ante Review: Any proposed changes to the General Announcements that would change the academic calendar, create or eliminate a major or minor, or substantially change curricular requirements must be pre-approved by the Faculty Senate (see section E of the document “Creating, Administering, and Eliminating Majors and Minors at Rice University” for guidelines on what constitutes a “substantial change” in the specific case of a major or minor). When in doubt about whether a given change requires ex-ante approval, relevant administrators and faculty should consult the leadership of the Faculty Senate.

3. Ex-Post Review: In June of each academic year, the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs will provide to the Faculty Senate a report that details any and all substantive differences between the current and immediately previous versions of the General Announcements, no matter the genesis of these difference (i.e., including even simple corrections but excluding formatting and the like). The specific format and method of dissemination of this information is left to the discretion of the VPAA, but should be provided in a way that makes substantive comparisons of the different versions of the General Announcements practical. After making this information available to the Senate and soliciting written questions from Senators, representatives of the Provost’s Office should be prepared to meet with Senate leadership to explain any changes to the General Announcements that may be of interest to the Senate and help resolve any problems.