In the Spring of 2011, a university-wide committee took up the charge of President Sidney A. Ribeau to examine the current state of general education at Howard University and to make recommendations about how it might be improved. Chaired by Associate Provost Joseph P. Reidy and staffed by the Office of the Provost, the committee consisted of faculty members from all the schools and colleges offering undergraduate degree programs, staff members from representative academic support units, and students. The committee focused particularly on the learning outcomes that will enable undergraduate students to achieve the attributes of the Howard University graduate as defined by the Presidential Commission on Academic Renewal.

**Characteristics of the Howard University General Education Experience:** Extensive discussions with faculty members, administrators, curriculum committees, and students, revealed that a revised general education program at Howard University should exhibit the following general characteristics: 1. flexibility, 2. simplicity, 3. a university-wide focus, 4. A distinctive identity, 5. responsiveness, 6. shared responsibility, and 7. innovation. Given its university-wide character, the program will be administratively housed in the Office of the Provost, with designated coordinators in each school or college that offers undergraduate degrees.

**Next Steps:** The committee recommends that during the Spring 2013 semester deans and faculty members of the undergraduate-serving schools and colleges review and approve its recommendations. Then the respective faculties will map the competencies and learning outcomes to courses and co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that will fulfill the graduation requirements of the respective programs. The committee will serve as a resource to facilitate these discussions until the program's administrative structure is established and the successor university-wide committee is constituted.

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