April 13, 2015

TO: University Senate Curricula & Courses Committee

FROM: Senate Executive Committee

It has been more than a decade since the current General Education program was established at UConn. When established, the purpose of the program was to:

Ensure that all University of Connecticut undergraduate students become articulate and acquire intellectual breadth and versatility, critical judgment, moral sensitivity, awareness of their era and society, consciousness of the diversity of human culture and experience, and a working understanding of the processes by which they can continue to acquire and use knowledge.

One of the specific responsibilities of GEOC, a subcommittee of the Senate Curricula and Courses Committee, is:

* Reviewing the University-wide General Education program to ensure that its goals are being met and recommending changes to the Senate Curricula and Courses Committee when appropriate (May 2003).

The University Senate is in receipt of the work GEOC has accomplished addressing course alignment, and the specific content areas. It is time to move from the parts to the whole. To that end, the SEC formally charges the C&C to conduct an in depth assessment of the current General Education plan minimally to determine:

1. To what degree are the goals of the General Education program being met?
2. What is the long term impact of the GER?
3. Are the current goals for GER appropriate for the 21st century university? Are revisions in goals needed?
4. Do the content areas as currently constructed meet the needs of our evolving society? Are there content areas within GER which need to be revised, deleted and/or content areas to be added?

We recommend a holistic assessment of the General Education program in order to determine the answers to the above questions. Minimally, students, faculty and alumni need to be involved in the assessment.

The SEC requests the review process be shared with the SEC at the initial Chairs and SEC meeting in September 2015. The University Senate will receive the final General Education assessment report at its April 2016 meeting.

The SEC welcomes interim reports and opportunity for dialogue throughout the process. We appreciate the time intensive nature of this activity and will work with you to acquire the needed resources for a quality assessment.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the General Education program and the work you do to facilitate its implementation and continued review.