



October 30, 2008

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Academic Affairs Committee
Faculty Senate
Campus

Dear Colleagues:

As provost and members of the Deans Council, we support the proposed university-wide change for general education – **The K-State 8: General Education Program** and want to share our perspectives regarding policies and budgeting to be considered when reviewing this proposal.

The potential cost of a proposed university-wide curricular change is always a consideration. In fiscal times like these, budgets seem even more critical. However, we see no reason to expect budget difficulties if the proposed program is accepted and implemented.

The proposal does recommend an administrative position to lead and administer general education. That recommendation can be effectively accommodated by continuing the governance structure currently used for UGE – i.e., participation of the faculty, the undergraduate colleges, and the university. No new positions would be required.

Faculty oversight is critical in the governance of any curricular program. A General Education Council similar to the current UGE Council – comprised of faculty members representing the undergraduate colleges and chaired by a faculty member – could serve as an advisory board as a new program is implemented. For example, the council would play an important role as an assessment program is developed for general education. Each dean could delegate a college representative to serve on a group similar to UGE's Inter-College Coordination Panel (ICCP), which was certainly an important conduit for communications during the early implementation of UGE. The college group would be chaired by one of the college representatives. Finally, the provost could delegate a member of his staff to provide central administrative support and leadership.

We support the shared governance process as critical as we move forward in the design and implementation of an assessment program. Based on the Task Force recommendation K-State needs to design an assessment program to complement other assessment programs already in place in our departments and colleges, while avoiding duplication or complication.

General education is a university-wide curriculum, and any university-wide program will be a compromise. As you know, to achieve a workable compromise, the Task Force conducted university open forums and listening meetings in each of the undergraduate

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colleges as they sought to design a program to meet faculty preferences and to be feasible in the undergraduate programs here at Kansas State University. Their study and decision-making were informed by the work of earlier committees and the 2004 surveys of both faculty and students on our campus. We want to acknowledge the time and work of all involved.

Sincerely,



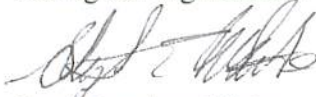
M. Duane Nellis

Provost and Senior Vice President



Dean Fred Cholick

College of Agriculture



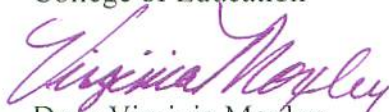
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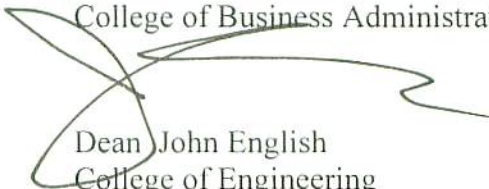
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Graduate School

Cc: President Wefald