



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

October 19, 2009

TO: Mark Shanda, Chair, University-Level Advisory Committee on the
General Education Curriculum

FROM: Joseph A. Alutto, Executive Vice President and Provost
William J. Shkurti, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Financial Implications of Changes in GEC

Thank you for your email regarding the financial implications of changes in the general education requirements. We concur that it is important for the faculty to focus on what is right academically rather than let financial considerations drive academic decisions.

Consequently, we will work with you, with the Senate Fiscal Committee, and with the colleges to make sure enrollment shifts resulting from the semester conversion are buffered as needed. We are open to extending buffering from the enrollment reserve beyond two years where appropriate, but this needs to be considered annually in the context of the fiscal well-being of each college in the context of the academic plan.

In addition to the overall reviews of the Senate Fiscal Committee, any dean can request we provide buffering assistance in response to or in preparation for enrollment shifts. We look forward to working with all the parties involved to make the conversion to semesters successful on both an academic and financial basis.

Attachment

c: Vice Provosts
Council of Deans
University-Level Advisory Committee on the General Education Curriculum
Senate Fiscal Committee

Garrett, Crystal

From: Mark Shanda [shanda.1@osu.edu]
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2009 4:20 PM
To: Alutto, Joe
Cc: Collier, Alexis; Smith, Randy; Carlson, Wayne; Soave, Melissa
Subject: Follow Up to ULAC-GEC Meeting of Today

Thank you so much for taking the time out of your busy schedule to meet with the University Level Advisory Committee on the General Education Curriculum today. The committee deeply appreciates your engagement with our process, enjoyed hearing your remarks about the future of General Education and the potential impact on the budget, and promises to continue to keep you informed as we make progress toward our recommendation deadline in December.

As a follow up to your remarks, I write today to formally request a written assurance of a fiscal "hold harmless" clause for departments should we recommend radical changes to the general education requirements. We are hopeful that with such assurance, we can focus more on the content and quality of the general education program rather than be constrained by the concerns for financial impact that any change might cause.

You mentioned in your remarks that the OAA has historically responded to change in such a way that a buffer is typically created to respond to any unintended consequences. Further, that this stance by OAA usually has been for a two-year window. The committee discussed this at some length following your remarks and are hopeful that that window of assurance might be expanded to a least a four-year commitment beginning in the fall term of 2012, so as to allow the new curriculum to unfold to near completion before any significant financial changes occur based on enrollment shifts and course offerings dynamics.

Please note that we also know that as the Arts and Sciences provide the majority of the current General Education Curriculum that Vice Provost and Executive Dean Steinmetz will need to weigh in on our fiscal concerns and we will be inviting him to attend one of our meetings in the near future to speak on this topic.

We are confident that if fiscal concerns can be placed in abeyance through your leadership, we will be able to make the most of this exciting time of change, created by the semester conversion and the restructuring of the Arts and Sciences. Ultimately a revised general education program will only serve to benefit our students and feature the remarkable talents of our faculty all the better.

Thank you again,

Mark

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