TO: The Academic Senate
FROM: The Committee on Instruction and Curriculum (CIC)
PURPOSE: For Senate approval of the following 20 freshman learning communities to offer in the 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17 academic years.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Every freshman student is required to enroll in a freshman learning community. Learning communities are comprised of 3 GE discipline courses (science, humanities, social studies) and 4 foundation courses (Communication, English composition (all levels of remedial and the baccalaureate course), Library information literacy, and the freshman seminar: GS). Every three years, the General Education subcommittee sends out a call for new or renewed freshman learning community proposals. This year, the subcommittee received 23 proposals for clusters. Of those 8 were designed for majors, 15 designed for the general freshman population. Based on projections of entering freshmen in Fall 2014 and historical enrollment data in majors’ clusters, we determined that we needed to have 12 or 13 non-major clusters for the incoming class. Subcommittee members were provided with the proposals and asked to rank order all non-major clusters. At the meeting, each cluster was discussed then the members were asked which clusters were in their bottom three in ranking. Three clusters received 4 “bottom” votes and were eliminated. One received 3 “bottom” votes and is the alternative in case of enrollment needs. In other words, 3 of the proposals were not approved and one was approved as an alternate or 13th cluster. This is the first time in the history of the East Bay freshman learning community program (started in 1998) that we have had more proposals than needed for the incoming class.

MAJORS CLUSTERS APPROVED WITH NO OBJECTIONS OR ABSTENTIONS:
- Atoms are Everything (Physics)
- Biology of Humans (Pre-Nursing, Kinesiology, Health Science)
- Diversity of Life (Biology)
- Engineering
- Healthier Living (Pre-Nursing)
- Molecules, Energy and Living Things (Chemistry)
- Teaching in the 21st Century (Liberal Studies)
- Bodies in Motion (Kinesiology therapeutic studies and Health and Nutrition options)

GENERAL INTEREST CLUSTERS APPROVED WITH NO OBJECTIONS OR ABSTENTIONS:
- Ancient World
• Earth Crisis!
• How Things Work
• The Individual and Society
• Language and Culture (foreign language study)
• Science in the Ancient World
• Spirituality, Creativity and the Human Experience
• Taking Charge of your Life—Balance
• Thinking Globally
• Viewing Diversity
• World Problems

• Moving Bodies, Shifting Identities, and Social Justice - ALTERNATE IF NEEDED

NOT APPROVED:

• Bodies at Play
• Energy and the Environment
• Got Rice?

ACTION REQUESTED:
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