TO: The Committee on Instruction and Curriculum (CIC) 
Executive Committee

FROM: The General Education Subcommittee

SUBJECT: 14-15 CIC 5: Moratorium on Quarter-Based GE Proposals

PURPOSE: For approval by the Academic Senate; upon the president’s agreement, effective Fall, 2015

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
At its meeting on October 27, the GE Subcommittee recommended by a unanimous vote that it not accept proposals for new requests for General Education designation of courses on the quarter system following this academic year. It is the intention of the GE Subcommittee to fulfill its charge from CIC to recommend a set of General Education requirements for the semester-based calendar during this academic year. We anticipate that, next year, the Subcommittee will begin to see numerous requests for semester-based GE designations. In addition, academic year 2015-6 begins the period of “General Education renewal” as mandated by 13-14 CIC 4 amended. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the Director of General Education, Sally Murphy, reports that there are sufficient numbers of approved courses in all GE designations and that, in every quarter for the past few years, there have been empty seats in some courses for each GE category. If it is determined that this moratorium adversely affects students— that is to say, if it is discovered that there is a subsequent need for new quarter-based GE designations due to a lack of available seats in classes— the GE Subcommittee will announce an RFP for the needed areas to the campus.

ACTION REQUESTED:
That CIC approve and forward to the Academic Senate the request to place a moratorium on requests for quarter calendar GE course approvals, beginning in Fall, 2015, excepting when the GE Subcommittee determines that more courses may be needed in specific areas. The committee will also make exceptions for programs that can document a compelling need, such as if adding more courses would facilitate a graduation initiative program.