TO: The Academic Senate
FROM: The Committee on Instruction and Curriculum (CIC)
SUBJECT: 15-16 CIC 52: First Year Experience / Clusters
PURPOSE: Approval of the Senate
ACTION REQUESTED: That the Senate approve the policies proposed below. Upon the President’s signature, effective with conversion to semesters (planned for Fall, 2018).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
In proposing the GE “Framework” (14-15 CIC 38) last year, the Subcommittee noted that the structure of clusters was still to be determined. GE recommended continuation of clusters into semesters in 14-15 CIC 40 and this year’s Senate charged CIC (which, in turn, sent the charge to the Subcommittee) with determining the structure.

The General Education Subcommittee recommends continuation of Freshman clusters, which will be rebranded as “First Year Experience”. Like the current clusters, the First Year Experience will have “linked” or “thematic courses” and will be tied to GE or remedial courses for the purposes of enrollment. The “Freshman Seminars” listed below are akin the current GS courses.

The Subcommittee also included recommendations for a “Second Year Experience”, but the Committee bifurcated the proposal and, on May 2, unanimously approved the First Year Experience noted below. It is the Committee’s understanding that A1 courses may not be part of the clusters for students in the “stretch English” courses, which includes what were formerly known as remedial English and GE area A2.

PROPOSED POLICIES:
• Clusters be rebranded as “First Year Experience” and have at least one course in both semesters tied to a theme (“linked discipline” courses).
• The First Year Experience include mechanisms for block enrollment of students in the thematic courses, along with remedial courses, A1, A2, and 2 one-unit Area E Freshman Seminars, as appropriate.