TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: Committee on Instruction and Curriculum (CIC)

SUBJECT: 18-19 CIC 26: Grade Forgiveness and General Education Requirements (revision of 17-18 CIC 76)

PURPOSE: For information to the Academic Senate

ACTION REQUESTED: That the Senate be informed of the change in Procedure for Grade Consideration for GE Courses taken multiple times.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At their meeting on May 21, 2018, CIC discussed a situation in which a student could take a GE course and receive a “D or D+”, at which point the GE requirement would be satisfied. But if the student opted for grade renewal but received an “F” on the second attempt, the GE satisfaction would be rescinded as only the most recent grade is considered when calculating whether a GE has been passed. It was decided that a fairer approach for students would be to say that once a GE requirement has been satisfied, it will remain satisfied, i.e. that GE requirements are based on the highest grade if there have been several attempts. This was passed unanimously as 17-18 CIC 76.

At their meeting on January 11, 2019, ExCom returned the document to CIC, pointing to lack of clarity around how this policy will be executed. They requested clarification on how the practice will be initiated and executed and how it will impact students’ GPAs. ExCom noted that for courses that are double counted, the document needed to make clear that the highest grade would be used for major and GE requirements, but both graded attempts for the course would be used for the calculated GPA.

At their meeting on March 18, 2019, and with discussions with the Registrar and Director of GE, CIC determined that it was not necessary to change the policy as per 17-18 CIC 76 but to implement this as a procedural change within the General Education and Registrar’s Offices. The change in procedure is that the Registrar’s Office will a) apply the higher, passing grade to the student’s GE requirements (i.e. the D or D+) and b) apply grade averaging for the GPA calculation. This
does not require any modifications to the University software, etc. The students will be notified that grade averaging was applied.

PROCEDURE:

If a General Education, Overlay, Code and other graduation requirement course is taken more than once by a student, the Registrar’s Office will apply grade averaging rather than grade forgiveness for the small number of students affected and their satisfaction of GE requirements will not be affected if their repeat of the class results in a failing grade. The students will be notified that grade averaging was applied.