TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: Committee on Instruction and Curriculum (CIC)

SUBJECT: 18-19 CIC 43: Writing Skills Taskforce

PURPOSE: For action by the Academic Senate

ACTION REQUESTED: That the Senate approve the creation of the a one-year Writing Skills Taskforce, effective on the signature of the President

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
At their meetings in February, March, and April of 2019, CIC discussed the request from various faculty and administrators to consider an alternative to the Writing Skills Test as the primary means for CSU East Bay students to pass the University Writing Skills Requirement. CIC further discussed the possibility of creating a Writing Skills Taskforce to research the issue, discuss it with CIC and make a report to Senate. The Chair presented this as a possibility to a number of stakeholders (the Writing Skills Subcommittee of CIC, the English Department, the Associate Provost, and others), who all supported the creation of the taskforce. The Chair obtained a commitment from Associate Provost Dobb to provide stipends for a small taskforce.

The Writing Skills Taskforce will be composed of four appointed faculty members, one from each of the four colleges. It will meet 5 or 6 times in the Fall of 2019 and early Spring of 2020, during which it will research alternatives, hear from stakeholders, collect its findings, discuss these with CIC, and submit a final report with recommendations to CIC and thence the Senate.