TO: Academic Senate
FROM: Committee on Instruction and Curriculum
SUBJECT: Oral Communication Outcomes (Area A1)
PURPOSE: For Action by the Academic Senate

ACTION REQUESTED: That the Academic Senate approve the Outcomes for Oral Communication for Lower Division General Education

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Oral Communication Outcomes were previously submitted to the Senate on 2005-06 CIC 11, Proposal for Learning Outcomes in Area A1 (Oral Communication). The Senate returned the document to the committee.

At its meeting on May 7, 2007, CIC discussed the attached Oral Communications Outcomes for Area A1 and they were approved (7/0/0).

Oral Communication (A1)

Students who have completed lower division general education requirements should be grounded in the rhetorical principles that govern public presentations and the listening skills required for effective message reception. These principles are fundamental to sound reasoning and clear expression. The principles foster open-mindedness and information competence combined with critical thinking and
analytical skills, and an awareness of and ability to adapt to audience, context, and purpose.

Students are expected, at the end of their lower-division general education requirements, to demonstrate their oral communication presentation competence by

1. choosing and narrowing a topic appropriately for a specific audience and occasion;
2. communicating the thesis/specific purpose in a manner appropriate for the audience and the occasion;
3. providing appropriate supporting material based on the audience and occasion and using appropriate technology (PowerPoint, demonstration, etc.) to present the material to the audience;
4. presenting logically sound, non-fallacious arguments;
5. recognizing and addressing audience viewpoints appropriately;
6. presenting ideas organized in a fashion appropriate to topic, audience, occasion, and purpose;
7. using language, vocal variety, and physical behaviors that are appropriate to the audience, occasion, and purpose and maintain interest and support the verbal message.

Listening
At the end of lower division general education, students should be able to demonstrate their listening competence by

1. recognizing that listening as an interaction among the speaker, message, and audience;
2. understanding the public or private context in which the interaction occurs;
3. engaging with the ideas, the supporting details, and the relationships among ideas;
4. attending to messages with an open mind;
5. questioning speakers and messages;
6. evaluating messages using criteria appropriate to the context.