TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: Committee on Instruction and Curriculum

SUBJECT: Two-Year Extension of the Current Freshman Learning Communities

PURPOSE: For Action by the Academic Senate

ACTION REQUESTED: That the current freshman learning communities be continued through AY 2011-12.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The GE Subcommittee unanimously voted to extend the current freshman learning communities at its meeting on February 8, 2010, and CIC unanimously concurred at its meeting on February 15, 2010.

The currently offered freshmen clusters were renewed or first offered in Fall 2007 for AY 2007-2008. The clusters were approved for a three-year cycle. That cycle ends this Spring, 2010. Because of the financial stresses the University is currently experiencing, the GE Subcommittee felt that a new call for proposals was not an optimal option. To reduce the work required when a new call for cluster proposals goes out, the GE Subcommittee recommends that the current freshman learning communities be continued through AY 2011-2012.

This two-year extension will accommodate the anticipated freshman enrollments without adding stressors to the faculty. Upon approval of this extension, the GE Director will send out a notice to all faculty indicating that the next call for cluster proposals will go out in Winter/Spring 2011.