TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: Committee on Instruction and Curriculum (CIC)

SUBJECT: Learning Outcomes for Courses Meeting General Education (G.E.) Performing Arts and Activities Requirement

ACTION REQUESTED: To exempt courses meeting the G.E. Performing Arts and Activities Requirement from the development of learning outcomes for assessment and to continue to require that these courses include a minimum of 40% activity

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
2002-03 CIC 12, the Revision of the G.E. Program that was passed in June 2003, requires the assessment of the entire G.E. Program and therefore the writing of learning outcomes for every G.E. requirement. The Senate has already approved outcomes for most G.E. requirements. Some efforts have been made to develop learning outcomes for courses meeting the performing arts and activities requirement. However, it has proved very difficult to come up with outcomes that are meaningful for activities courses in both the arts and physical education, which make up the bulk of those meeting this requirement. The problem is that any outcome that could reasonably be applied to both these categories of courses would have to be so general as to be meaningless. Rather than require faculty members to go through the time-consuming exercise of showing how their courses meet meaningless learning outcomes, CIC voted unanimously at its meeting on Jan. 3, 2005, to exempt this category of courses from the development of G.E. learning outcomes.

Courses applied to this G.E. requirement will still be required to include a minimum of 40% activity. It is presumed that these courses will continue to use learning outcomes to help assess their contributions to their degree programs.