TO: Academic Senate
FROM: Committee on Instruction and Curriculum
SUBJECT: Approval of Freshman Clusters in 2004-09 General Education Program
PURPOSE: For Action by the Academic Senate

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of the following 14 clusters for the 2004-09 General Education (G.E.) Program: The Ancient World; Biology of Humans; The Creative Spirit; The Diversity of Life; Earth, Water and Life; Gender in the Arts, Literature and Society; The Global Environment; How Things Work; The Interdependence of Chemicals; The Individual and Society; Language and Culture; Molecules, Energy and Living Things; Science, Technology and Society; and Viewing Diversity; effective Fall, 2004.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: A new set of freshman clusters needs to be approved for the 2004-09 G.E. Program that the Senate passed in June 2003. At its meetings of April 12 and 16, the G.E. Subcommittee of CIC considered all of the proposed clusters and recommended the above list, with one exception: “Gender in the Arts, Literature and Society” was not included and “Immigrant Dreams, American Realities” was included. At its meeting of April 19, CIC, concurring with the G.E. Subcommittee, approved all the proposed Science clusters (of which 4 are for science majors* and 2 are for non-science majors), with the exception of “Life in the Universe.” A representative of that cluster spoke on its behalf. At its meeting of Apr. 26, CIC approved all of the other proposed clusters (Humanities, Social Science, and Mixed), with the exception of “Immigrant Dreams, American Realities,” after a lengthy hearing to which representatives of all these clusters had been invited. A complex voting system was used which resulted in more than twice as many points to not recommend “Immigrant Dreams” as to not recommend the next closest cluster.

Please note that under the 2004-09 General Education program, all students must take 12 lower-division units each from Humanities, Social Science and Science. Whatever units are not taken in the clusters will be taken in independent or linked courses. All clusters are for freshmen; sophomore clusters have been discontinued and will be offered in 2004-05 for the last time. A system will be developed for rotating clusters, so that any clusters not approved this year will have the opportunity to apply again in the not too distant future, along with entirely new clusters and existing sophomore clusters.

*Biology of Humans,” “Diversity of Life,” “Interdependence of Chemicals” and “Molecules, Energy and Living Things” are special clusters developed for specific majors in the sciences. Without these clusters, it would be impossible for students in these majors (which require large numbers of units, including 1000-level courses that are prerequisites to other required courses) to complete their degree in 4 years.

The approved Cluster Proposals and Syllabi can be found on the CIC documents page: http://imetwo.csuhayward.edu/senate/cic_docs.shtm