TO: The Academic Senate
FROM: Committee on Instruction and Curriculum
SUBJECT: Request for Senate Approval of All Program Modifications
PURPOSE: For Action by the Senate

ACTION REQUESTED: That the Academic Senate approve the policy that all substantial program modifications, as determined by the AVP Academic Programs, in consultation with the Chair of the Senate, must go to CIC and the Senate for approval; effective Fall 2006.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Concern about whether major program modifications need to be reviewed by CIC and the Senate was raised in the Senate. Seemingly small changes in one program may affect other departments and programs, especially when programs have mandated content requirements in order to meet accreditation standards. In addition, degree and other programs are initially approved by the Senate but may significantly change from what was approved by small cumulative changes.

At its meeting on Feb. 20th, CIC voted (7-0-0) that “Starting in the Fall of 2006, all program modifications must go, not only to college curriculum committees, but also to CIC and the Senate.”

ExCom discussion on May 23rd concluded with the view that this action, as originally written, would overwhelm and substantially reduce the efficiency of CIC and the Senate. Therefore, a revision is suggested to modify the action requested as shown above. It is the view of ExCom that the AVP Academic Programs & GS is the individual in the best position to ascertain whether a requested modification, or cumulative modifications, would effect a substantial change that warrants CIC and Senate review.