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From: [Stephen M North](#)

To: [R Michael Range](#) ; [Joan N Savitt](#)

Cc: [Trudi E Jacobson](#) ; [Anthony DeBlasi](#) ; [John S Pipkin](#) ; [Morton Schoolman](#) ; [Martin V Hildebrand](#) ; [Dustin Lanterman](#) ; [Rachel Dressler](#) ; [Sue R Faerman](#) ; [Kathie C Winchester](#) ; [Stephen M North](#) ; [Robert Keese](#) ; [Lee S Bickmore](#) ; [Richard Zitomer](#) ; [Gail Cameron](#)

Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 3:31 PM

Subject: Task Force on General Education: short term/interim recommendations on General Education requirements

Dear Michael and Joan,

The first part of the charge to the Task Force on General Education created by the Amended Senate Resolution of 2-8-2010 was to (a) "identify and propose short term interim recommendations to address the needs of incoming students for Fall 2010"; and (b) "to submit such recommendations to the UAC and the Senate Executive Committee no later than Friday, March 19, 2010."

As you know, the Task Force has now met and considered this portion of its charge. Our assessment of the situation, based on the information that led the Senate to create the Task Force in the first place, is as follows:

"On January 20, 2010, the SUNY Board of Trustees passed a resolution amending the December 15, 1998 Resolution 98-241 that established a General Education Requirement for every SUNY baccalaureate recipient. The amended policy indicates that while future general education programs created by SUNY colleges must still require students to earn at least 30 credits, and include approved study in both the mathematics and basic communication categories of the original 10 content areas, they need **not** require approved study in all 8 of the remaining content areas. Instead, they may allow students to acquire the remainder of their 30 credits in as few as 5 of those areas."

Given that assessment, we recommend the following characterization of the University at Albany's position for the 2010-2011 academic year:

"The University at Albany is undertaking a review to determine what implications, if any, this change in policy may have for its General Education Program. For the 2010-11 academic year, however, there will be no changes to the University's General Education requirements."

Our rationale for recommending this position is straightforward: it would be imprudent to make hasty decisions about an enterprise as important as our General Education Program. Moreover, information made available to us subsequent to our formation—including, most notably, the email exchange between our Provost and SUNY's Interim Provost on precisely this matter—suggests that there is no compelling need for the University to do so.

Please let us know if there is other information we might provide on this matter. Otherwise, we will move on to the second part of our charge, and aim to provide a progress report in time for the Senate's May 10, 2010 meeting.

Respectfully,

Steve North (Chair)

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