

Response from College of Engineering
to University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education

for December 8, 2014 meeting of
the Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies

The College of Engineering sincerely appreciates the effort that the University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education has put into developing the Pathways General Education proposal. We recognize that the current Curriculum for Liberal Education has little coherence and is difficult to assess and we applaud the effort to develop a stronger alternative. We support the spirit of the proposal and share the desire to have the graduates of our university be among the best in the world.

The current version of the proposal (dated November 17, 2014) has improved substantially from the earlier version and responds effectively to the prior concerns expressed by the College of Engineering. However, there are still two primary issues that are not clear in this version of the proposal. These issues are:

1. the lack of an implementation plan and explicit language describing the approval of sets of courses relative to each Learning Outcome, and
2. the availability of required budgetary support from the university for both development and ongoing costs associated with the curriculum.

There are several ways that these issues could be addressed. Specific suggestions for the course approval process include:

1. adding a statement to the proposal regarding when the implementation plan will be drafted and who will approve it, and
2. considering the Committee for Undergraduate Curricula (CUC) as the sole approval body for all undergraduate courses rather than having Pathways courses approved both by CUC and UCCLE.

Regarding the availability of the required budgetary support suggestions for the proposal include:

1. adding a statement that Registrar's office supports the proposal and will have the additional resources that will be required for the DARS encoding that will be required, and
2. including a statement from the Provost that funding for the additional advising requirements will be made available as the proposed revision will result in a significant increase in advising needs.