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TO: Mr. Gary Russi
Vice-President for Academic Affairs

FROM: Renate Gerulaitis, Chair R. J.,
Senate Committee on General Education

RE: Annual Report for 1993-94

The following were members of the Committee last year: Virginia Allen, Academic Affairs, ex officio; Brian Connery, English; Addington Coppin, SBA; Steve Gilbert, SEHS; Datta Kulkarni, Math; Michael Smith, Linguistics; Eli Water, SEHS. Scott Bean and Bradley Perry, student members, had been appointed for one semester each, but each attended only once.

In 1993-94 the Committee worked on two projects: to establish and modify assessment instruments for general education courses and to review the courses in the field categories of language; math, logic and computer science; natural science and technology; and economics courses from the social science category that had not been reviewed the previous year. All courses in those categories except Physics 104 and 105 were re-approved as general education courses. For lack of adequate documentation, the decision regarding Chem 144 and 164 was postponed until fall '94.

The Committee decided that two instruments of assessment should be used: 1) the Kansas State IDEA Survey, given at the end of general education courses; 2) the College Outcome Survey (COS) given at the time of graduation. Neither instrument assesses knowledge. The IDEA survey is designed to analyze specifically course objectives identified by instructors; it correlates responses to questions about course objectives with responses about teaching methods. COS assesses attitudes.

1) The IDEA survey should be administered in the fall of the year in which a field category is being reviewed by the General Education Committee, instructors remaining anonymous. Composites of the results will be given to the General Education Committee, which will review them and share them with department chairs. Individual instructors get individual feedback for items they choose **in advance**. Assessment information would thus become part of the mandated review process for all general education courses. Instructors may, if they wish, add questions to the IDEA which can be changed at any time.

Departments or individual instructors will be asked to identify the questions on the IDEA which they think apply to their field category or for which they would like feedback.