MEMORANDUM

To: Chair, General Studies Committee, Troy State University-Dothan  
Chair, General Studies Committee, Troy State University-Montgomery  
Chair, General Studies Committee, Troy State University-Troy  
Chair, OGU Business Curriculum Review Group  
Chair, OGU Arts & Sciences Review Group  
Chair, OGU Education Curriculum Review Group  
Chair, OGU College of Health and Human Services Curriculum Review Group  
Chair, OGU College of Communication and Fine Arts Review Group  
Chair, OGU Academic Steering Committee  
Chair, Academic Council, Troy State University-Dothan  
Chair, Academic Council, Troy State University-Montgomery  
Chair, Academic Council, Troy State University-Troy  
Chair, OGU Transitional Undergraduate Academic Council

From: Ed D. Roach

Ref: OGU General Studies Program (GSP) Review Process

The TSU General Studies Program comprises one of the most critical elements of a student’s academic experience at this University. The GSP embraces over 40 percent of a student’s entire academic program. Ensuring we have the best possible GSP represents one of our most critical challenges as we proceed to the OGU.

In November, 2003, I charged an ad hoc committee with selected representatives from the General Studies Councils of Troy, Dothan and Montgomery to address this issue. I asked this ad hoc Committee to examine the GSPs at each location, determine the differences among these programs, construct the very best possible common GSP, and detail the assumptions behind its construction. The assumptions used in creating the OGU GSP are at Attachment 1, and Committee’s recommendations are at Attachment 2. The implications of its recommendations are at Attachment 3, and the comparison of the General Studies courses offered at each location is at Attachment 4.

Whatever OGU General Studies Program we ultimately decide upon, Troy State University, as do other universities, must operate within the guidelines of the Articulation and
General Studies Committee (ASGC). Keith Sessions, Executive Director of AGSC/STARS, has provided an excellent evaluation of the proposed OGU General Studies Program in relation to AGSC Policy, and I invite you to review evaluation in order to maintain a proper state-wide perspective in our deliberations at Attachment 5.

We must now begin the process for evaluating these recommendations. That process, along with its associated timeline, is at Attachment 6. Because of the importance of meeting these deadlines, I have spelled them out below as well.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Discuss and make recommendations within the respective Curriculum Review Group</td>
<td>To be completed by March 15, 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reviewed and approved or commented upon by the respective campus General Studies Councils</td>
<td>To be completed by April 2, 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reviewed and approved or commented upon by the OGU Academic Steering Committee</td>
<td>To be completed by April 6, 2004 (Meeting Date Already Scheduled)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reviewed and approved or commented upon by the respective campus Academic Councils</td>
<td>To be completed by April 15 (may require called meetings)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reviewed and approved or commented upon by the OGU Transitional Academic Council; the OGU Academic Steering Committee; and forwarded to the Chancellor’s Cabinet</td>
<td>To be completed 16-25 April</td>
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I am deeply committed to three facets of this process: first, that the faculties of the various departments, schools, and colleges must participate in this review for both intellectual and organizational integrity; second, that the process must be expeditious; and third, that the review process involves a broad programmatic context that must reach far beyond individual courses or disciplines.

Hence, I need your cooperation in three critical tasks:

- First, ensure a thorough review of these recommendations among your respective faculties. The format (worksheet) for submitting your review is at Attachment 7. We have standardized this format to enable efficient and effective collation of your comments by the various committees to whom you will be submitting them.

- Second, complete this task expeditiously. We have a 1 May deadline for the draft OGU Catalog. I ask for your strict adherence to the timelines depicted on the Process Review flowchart on Attachment 6.

- Third, maintain in your deliberations a broad, cross-disciplinary perspective. Our objective is to create a General Studies Program—not a list of compartmentalized courses. Deliberations that are confined solely to the importance of particular courses waste time and miss this point. General Studies courses that do not engage or build on each other will inhibit, not enhance, a student’s education. I urge us all to capitalize on the synergy within and across disciplines that is essential to building an exciting and intellectually credible Program. We want to create an “intellectual
ecosystem,” not compartmented gardens, no matter how beautiful such gardens may be. Hence, I urge you to consult the assumptions used in creating the recommendations (Attachment 1) in your deliberations.

In closing, please accept my deep thanks for your hard work on this vital issue. In reviewing our General Studies Program, we are retooling our collective intellectual identity. I am proud to have your participation in that process.

Attachments:
1. The assumptions used in creating the OGU GSP
2. General Studies Program Ad Hoc Committee recommendations
3. Implications of General Studies Program recommendations
4. Comparison of the General Studies courses offered at each location
5. Evaluation of Proposed OGU General Studies Program in Relation to AGSC Policy
6. General Studies Program Review Process and Associated Timeline
7. Format (worksheet) for submitting General Studies Program feedback

cc: Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr.
Senior Vice Chancellors
Academic deans/all campuses
OGU Academic Steering Committee Members