The Dean’s office and several faculty members within the College of Engineering (hereinafter “College”) have reviewed the proposal from the School of Arts and Communication (hereinafter “School”) within the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts presented at the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UGCC) meeting held on November 18, 2016, as well as the meeting minutes on the discussion of the proposal. After full consideration, the College offers an alternative COE proposal, presented herein, with annotated comment.

The College recognizes the need for all students to master the skills of reading, writing, and critical thinking. To that end, and to be able to effectively put into context the major-specific education the students are receiving, it is important that they gain a humanistic perspective through history, art, and literature. However, the College believes that this must be balanced by the rigorous technological education needed for its graduates to excel in their chosen engineering disciplines. One of the hallmarks of the Florida Tech engineering programs is that they contain more technical content than many other institutions with similar programs. This is why the engineering programs require 130 or more credit hours, and why additional required non-technical coursework would be a burden on the engineering programs. As such, the College seeks flexibility within both the general education and University cores to allow the programs to meet both their own requirements, as well as satisfying the core competencies currently being reviewed by the UGCC.

The College believes that it is in the best position to judge the appropriate and reasonable balance of major-specific and non-major-specific program content for its students. It is
recognized and appreciated that the School has proposed additional courses and sequences that could be used to satisfy core requirements, and that changes over the last few years have made the requirements more flexible, however the College still has concerns. With that introduction, the College of Engineering submits its proposal for the humanities requirement in the general education core.

In its current proposal, the School suggests the completion of one of five two-course sequences offered in the areas of history, literature, philosophy, and art history, as well as the traditional Civilization sequence. If a student cannot or does not wish to enroll in the second course of a sequence, the student would be permitted to choose the appropriate Civilization course to complete the sequence. The College believes this exchanges one restrictive choice for another. While a student does have the option of five courses to start a sequence, the student is then reduced to a choice of one of two courses to complete a sequence. The College also believes this would complicate transfer credit evaluation, as courses would still have to transfer with the necessary equivalency. The current School proposal effectively reduces flexibility and may lead to delaying graduation, an area that Florida Tech has identified for improvement.

The College believes that a selection of any of the proposed eleven courses listed below is sufficient to meet the core competency. However, to achieve the School’s stated desire to deliver content from across different historical eras, the College proposes that for the first six required credit hours of humanities:

- Students must complete 3 credits from any one of the following six options:
  - Civilization 1: Ancient through Medieval
  - American History: Pre-Columbian to Civil War Era
  - British Literature and Culture (new)
  - British and American Literature 1
  - Survey of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (moved from 3000-level to 2000-level)
  - World Art History 1: Pre-History to Early Global Awareness
- And, students must complete 3 credits from any one of the following seven options:
  - Civilization 2: Renaissance through Modern
  - American History: From Reconstruction to the Present
  - British Literature and Culture (cannot be repeated if selected above)
  - British and American Literature 2
Survey of Modern and Contemporary Philosophy (moved from 3000-level to 2000-level)
World Art History 2: Early Modern to Post-Colonial
Any HUM 3xxx or higher course

- Students with transfer credit who do not have equivalent courses may satisfy these requirements with any humanities course at the 2000-level or higher (irrespective of era) provided that the transferred course can be reasonably classified as related to history, literature, art history, or philosophy, or is a survey course similar to the Civilization courses, but relates to a different world region.

These requirements provide the College’s students and programs more choice in the courses that can satisfy the humanities core requirement, address the School’s desire to provide content over multiple historical eras, and do not introduce additional courses for assessment beyond what the School has already proposed. The inclusion of a 3000-level or higher course gives students an opportunity to complete the humanities core requirement in a manner that may address their individual goals and interests. It also will permit transfer students to use their transfer credit without concern for exact equivalency, and enhance graduation rates.

In order for students to complete the remaining three required credit hours of humanities, the School has proposed that students be required to take a 3000-level or higher course, with the rationale that a 3000-level or higher course is required to demonstrate “mastery,” a component of SACS-COC assessment. The College does not support the proposed requirement for several reasons:

- Requiring a 3000-level course is inconsistent with a general education core, which represents the first two years of a student’s education, and this should not be side-stepped by making it a requirement in the University core.
- Requiring a 3000-level course would limit the use of transfer credit, since most of those students are transferring at or below the sophomore level and may have multiple humanities courses, but not at the 3000-level.
- Nowhere else in the general education or University cores is there a requirement that a student take a 3000-level course of any kind, and the College believes that if it insisted on a 3000-level math or science course for the same reasons as provided by the School, there would be strong resistance from most of the other colleges.
• In fall 2016, the School offered only eight appropriate courses at the 3000-level, and only one appropriate 4000-level course. If the School keeps its course enrollment policy at 25 students or fewer, and is not able to offer substantially more courses, the student enrollment from the College alone would fully enroll these course offerings each semester.

• “Mastery” is not assessed in the same way for other required core areas (e.g., social sciences, of which only 3 credit hours are required; or mathematics, where multiple programs only require Statistics and one other 1000-level or higher math course).

For the remaining three required credit hours of humanities, the College proposes that students may select any course at any level with the “HU” designation in its course description or the courses listed above, as is the current requirement. Again this offers flexibility, as it is often the case that first term students in the College of Engineering (and perhaps in other colleges), because of placement exams or transfer credit, cannot be enrolled in their major-specific courses. As a solution, the advisor uses various electives, including the humanities elective, to enroll those students in enough courses to bring them to full-time status. By allowing freshmen and sophomores to continue to satisfy their humanities elective with 1000-level courses, an additional burden is not placed upon the freshmen advisors and the affected students. Students with transfer credit may use any HUM Xxxx course to satisfy this requirement.

The College recognizes that it is inappropriate for senior-level students (often in their last semester) to take a 1000-level humanities course. Therefore, the College would support 1000-level humanities courses with the “HUM” prefix having a “freshman or sophomore standing only” restriction, provided that a waiver can be approved if the 1000 level course is required in the student’s program and is being used to satisfy this requirement.
COE Proposal for the General Education Core for the Humanities Requirement (9 credits required)

- Students must complete 3 credits from any one of the following six options:
  - Civilization 1: Ancient through Medieval
  - American History: Pre-Columbian to Civil War Era
  - British Literature and Culture (new)
  - British and American Literature 1
  - Survey of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (moved from 3000-level to 2000-level)
  - World Art History 1: Pre-History to Early Global Awareness

- And, students must complete 3 credits from any one of the following seven options:
  - Civilization 2: Renaissance through Modern
  - American History: From Reconstruction to the Present
  - British Literature and Culture (cannot be repeated if selected above)
  - British and American Literature 2
  - Survey of Modern and Contemporary Philosophy (moved from 3000-level to 2000-level)
  - World Art History 2: Early Modern to Post-Colonial
  - Any HUM 3xxx or higher course

- Transfer credit for HUM 2xxx or higher courses may be substituted for one or both of the above listed requirements if the transferred course(s) can be reasonably categorized as related to history, art history, literature, philosophy, or a survey course similar to the Civilization courses.

- Students must complete 3 additional credits of any course at any level with the “HU” designation in its course description or any of the courses listed above, as is the current requirement. Courses at the 1000-level with the HUM prefix receive a “freshman or sophomore standing only” restriction, provided that a waiver can be approved if the 1000-level course is required in the student’s program and is being used to satisfy this requirement. Any HUM Xxxx transfer credit may be used to satisfy this requirement.