

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Informational Item on Name Change for General Education Program,
University of Northern Iowa
Date: January 7, 2002

Recommended Action: Receive the University of Northern Iowa's report regarding the name change for the general education program.

New Name The University of Northern Iowa requests that the Board receive this report of a name change for the general education program (the core program of study required of all undergraduate students) from "General Education" to "Liberal Arts Core." The new name, proposed by the University's General Education Committee and approved by the Faculty Senate, will more positively communicate to students and faculty the liberal arts experience central to a university education.

Background According to the mission statement of UNI's strategic plan, the University's undergraduate programs are "founded on a strong liberal arts curriculum." The "Statement on Liberal Learning" (Association of American Colleges and Universities), which appears in the UNI catalog, describes a liberal education as:

- ◆ one that requires understanding of the foundations of knowledge and inquiry about nature, culture and society;
- ◆ mastery of core skills of perception, analysis, and expression;
- ◆ cultivation of a respect for truth;
- ◆ recognition of the importance of historical and cultural context; and
- ◆ exploration of connections among formal learning, citizenship and service to community.
- ◆ It further states that a liberal education is one that prepares students "to live responsible, productive, and creative lives in a dramatically changing world."

Other Steps

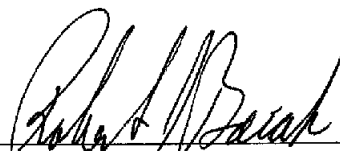
This action is one of several steps initiated during the past two years to enhance the quality of the existing general education experience of students at UNI. Other activities have included:

- ◆ Summer Institutes for faculty to enhance pedagogy and technology integration in general education courses;
- ◆ the appointment of an administrative coordinator for the program;
- ◆ the development of a cluster course which integrates four courses in the program;
- ◆ completion of a marketing study of the program by senior level marketing students (which included the recommendation for a name change); and
- ◆ the inclusion of a "Statement on Liberal Learning" and general education curriculum category goals in the 2000-02 UNI catalog.

Additional program improvements are now underway, including an ad hoc committee that is developing recommendations for improving student outcomes assessment for the program.

Effective Date

The new name will go into effect upon publication of the 2002-04 catalog on August 1, 2002.



Robert J. Barak