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**intra-office memo**Date 23 July 1985From: David H. Rembert, Jr., Chairman, Academic Planning CommitteeTo: Richard G. Silvernail, Secretary, Faculty SenateSubject: Annual Report

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During the Academic year 1984-85 we had our name changed from Academic Forward Planning to Academic Planning Committee. In addition to this piece of work, the committee discussed at great length the merits of a freshman curriculum for all baccalaureate programs within the System. Since the Presidential Commission on Undergraduate Education was appointed and began deliberations during the fall semester, we found it advisable to give the Commission our views on the matter of curriculum. As a result of this, we submitted the enclosed letter to the Commission for their consideration. We now submit a copy of that letter as our report.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S. C. 29208

1 May 1985

FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Secretary

Dean Harry M. Lightsey, Jr.  
Chairman  
Presidential Commission on Undergraduate Education  
Campus

Dear Dean Lightsey:

The Academic Planning Committee has spent the 1984-85 academic year considering a curriculum reform which we call the Freshman Year Proposal. This proposal would require every first year student at the University of South Carolina to take two semesters of English, two semesters of history, two semesters of mathematics, and two semesters of a laboratory science. We have talked with many members of the University community about the proposal, especially with deans and faculty representatives of colleges whose students would be subjected to the greatest curricular changes. We have met with many favorable responses.

Our discussions have indicated that the time is ripe for changes in undergraduate course requirements, changes in the direction of greater uniformity and greater structure. Therefore, we strongly urge the Presidential Commission, in its examination of the undergraduate program, to consider seriously the value of a common core curriculum. We believe the adoption of such a curriculum would have far-ranging benefits for the quality and consistency of undergraduate education, for our recruitment efforts to attract good students, and for the reputation of our university throughout the state and the nation.

A common curriculum for first year students seems to us the best way to improve our students' chances for success both in the university and in the community.

Yours sincerely,

David H. Rembert, Jr., Chairman

Carolyn Matalene, Secretary  
Academic Planning Committee

DHR/CM:pap