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As faculty dedicated to CUNY, Lehman College, and its mission of education, we represent our students when we ask that the curriculum proposed by the Pathways initiative be rejected.

Whereas the problem of transfer facilitation can be addressed without the imposition of an ill judged General Education curriculum that shows a total disregard for best practices as defined by organizations such as the American Association of Colleges and Universities;

Whereas Pathways violates best practices by eliminating essential elements of a liberal arts education and producing a curriculum that lacks depth and breadth;

Whereas Pathways, by diminishing access to fundamental subjects within Lehman's curriculum, irreparably damages our mission of education.

Whereas in a moment of new majors and new energy surrounding the liberal arts at this College, Pathways threatens our ability to attract and retain students and faculty, thus eroding our national reputation.

Whereas The CUNY charter places curriculum development within the purview of the faculty and strictly prohibits the solo drafting of curriculum by the administration. The Pathways initiative violates the traditional rights of faculty governance over the curriculum.

Whereas the imposition of a curriculum by a board of trustees, so contrary to the national best practices of curricular reform and the CUNY charter, will make CUNY an obvious outlier in the national educational community;

In conclusion, Pathways ignores the broad set of skills and knowledge required for our students to function and compete in the 21st century. It discourages rigor and damages standards at the College and encourages students to pursue the path of least resistance. Therefore, the Department of Philosophy rejects Pathways on pedagogical, social, legal, and moral grounds. We call for the Pathways Committee to be disbanded and a faculty elected group be named to address the problem of transfer facilitation.

Approved by the Philosophy Department of Lehman College,
November 15, 2011.