To: Academic Policy Committee c/o Peter Law

From: Maurice Lee, Chair of English

Re: English Department Proposal to Change International Baccalaureate Credit Award

Date: October 28, 2015

The English Department proposes to change the way it awards course credit on the basis of International Baccalaureate (IB) credit. Currently, the department awards 8 credits for a score of 7, 6, or 5 on the IB English Language A-Literature exam. The department proposes reducing the IB exam credit award to 4 credits; these credit hours will be counted as EN 100 and may not be used to fulfill course requirements of the major or minor in English or CAS Divisional Studies.

After review of the evaluation procedures of the IB system, the department’s Curriculum Review Committee concluded that, because the department has no input in or oversight over IB courses or exams, the department can not be certain that these are organized to support the program’s specific learning outcomes. These include enabling a critical understanding of English and American literary culture and its traditions, as well as at least one area of literary study outside of these traditions; proficiency in written literary analysis, interpretation, and research; and proficiency in the oral expression of ideas and literary analysis.

The 4 credits awarded towards EN 100, the department feels, sufficiently recognizes the skill and experience the student has likely gained through successful completion of their IB course and exam and this reduction of total credit hours towards degree provides valuable flexibility, especially if the student is working towards a dual concentration or early graduation.

Note, too, that this proposal would bring the department’s treatment of IB courses in accord with its treatment of AP credit (modified in 2014).