The Commonwealth Honors College Council (CHCC) has reviewed and discussed the General Education Council’s Recommendations for changes in the Diversity Requirement (as amended 10/28/16). The CHCC fully supports the introduction of the diversity course requirement in the first year. We do, however, oppose the implementation as proposed believing that this new requirement needs to be paired with revisions to the existing GenEd requirements to avoid significant, negative impacts on Commonwealth Honors College and other students.

Commonwealth Honors College students are required to take the signature course Honors 201H, *Ideas that Changed the World*. This course currently carries a General Education Interdisciplinary (I) designation. The pending 10/28/16 proposal would render Interdisciplinary courses useless for the purpose of satisfying General Education Requirements. A consequence is that the pending proposal would require most Commonwealth Honors College students to take an additional course to complete degree requirements. Students with minor programs and/or major programs with many requirements, as is common with Commonwealth Honors College students, might well find themselves having to choose to drop a minor or drop out of Commonwealth Honors College to complete their degree programs within four years.

The CHCC discussed the possibility of revising *Ideas that Changed the World* so that it could be used to satisfy the new DIV requirement but the Council believes that the changes necessary would so dramatically affect the course that it would no longer accomplish the learning objectives associated with the course, including those related to interdisciplinary inquiry.

Furthermore, because the pending proposal requires that 75% of the courses used to satisfy the social world component of the GenEd requirements be chosen from among those that carry a diversity designation (DIV, G or U), students will be too severely limited in the selection of social world courses. Many students will, for example, be able to take only one of the foundational courses in Psychology, Economics and Philosophy because these courses do not carry a diversity designation.

Fortunately, this structural problem can be easily remedied and student flexibility preserved by allowing the new required DIV course to substitute for either a G or a U course and to allow the DIV course to be used, not only in the 4th or “wild card” social world GenEd slot, but also as a substitute for an HS, AL/AT or SB course to satisfy GenEd requirements.

We recommend modification of the GenEd requirements accordingly. This will enable introduction of the new DIV course without increasing the number of courses required or reducing the flexibility of our honors students in satisfying degree requirements.