January 27, 2015

To the faculty Senate,

As student leaders we understand the importance of a diverse learning experience. We value and appreciate the classroom as a place not only for principle understanding but also as a melting pot of critical thinking and global perspective. We appreciate the opportunity to be included in the process of revamping the general education program in attempt to make it more suitable in addressing issues of effective communication, critical, integrative and analytical thinking, global learning, social responsibility, and creativity.

In our meeting with the General Education task force, as well as attending the retreat for the task force, we learned of the direction the program planned to take. As the multicultural community, we firmly stand by the inclusive work of all who attended. The new additions to the program were reflective of student opinion as there was student involvement throughout the process. We are very appreciative of the opportunity to be welcomed into the conversation and were pleased to learn that members of the Penn State community were also made a part of the process. We are elated to be provided with the resources that make it possible to stay involved in the future, as we see it very important that we the students, the receivers, have a say in what is to come for those who follow us. We value the education of the future academic classes as much as our own.

As asserted by educational reformer John Dewey, ethical principles in life should not be separated from ethical principles in school. To be educated is to be moral; to hold ideas that improve conduct, and abandon those that worsen it. Teaching students ideas about power and privilege is intrinsically moral and the very responsibility of the institution, especially in light of recent happenings. The danger of bureaucracy is limited communication, and, as a sample of the university community we are delighted to break through this wall and proclaim our support of the General Education task force proposed changes.

"I believe that there will ultimately be a clash between the oppressed and those that do the oppressing. I believe that there will be a clash between those who want freedom, justice and equality for everyone and those who want to continue the systems of exploitation.”

— Malcolm X

With Honor,

The Black Leadership Union