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February 8, 2017

Dear Trustee:

To this day, a strong core curriculum remains a hallmark of a liberal arts education. A broad-based core curriculum lays the groundwork for future studies, success in the modern workplace, and responsible civic participation.

Goucher historically has placed a strong value on its core, ranking among the top third of general education programs according to the *What Will They Learn?* survey of over 1,100 colleges and universities, administered annually by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA).

More recently, however, Goucher has introduced changes to its core curriculum that merit thoughtful board consideration to ensure that degree requirements continue to uphold the College's commitment to the liberal arts. In the enclosed *Baltimore Sun* op-ed, ACTA expresses concern that the replacement of Goucher's traditionally rich core with a student-driven, interdisciplinary approach runs the risk of leaving students with significant gaps in their education.

We encourage you to ask your academic affairs committee, as an agenda item at your board's next scheduled meeting, to discuss these recent changes to Goucher's general education program, and to work with your academic leadership to see that the changes do not compromise Goucher's existing high standards.

Please feel free to call on ACTA as a resource in any area of higher education governance. For over 20 years, ACTA has helped trustees and presidents develop strategies to work together more effectively on behalf of academic freedom, academic excellence, and accountability in higher education.

PROMOTING ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND EXCELLENCE

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Thank you for your service to higher education.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Armand B. Alacbay", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Armand B. Alacbay

Vice President for Trustee & Legislative Affairs

Enclosure

cc: José Antonio Bowen, Ph.D., President, Goucher College