**Topic: General Education Council Recommendations for SB24-164**

**Prepared by: Brad Griffith, Senior Director of Academic Pathways**

1. **Summary**

The Commission is being asked to review and potentially act on recommendations made by the General Education (GE) Council concerning the alignment, transferability, and credit application of general education courses in the statewide Guaranteed Transfer Pathway Matrix, as mandated by SB24-164. These recommendations aim to improve consistency across institutions, reduce credit loss for students, and fulfill statutory obligations beginning October 1, 2025.

1. **Background**

Senate Bill 24-164, signed into law on May 18, 2024, seeks to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in Colorado’s postsecondary transfer system. A key component of the legislation is the strengthening of the Guaranteed Transfer Pathway Matrix and requiring annual review and oversight.

To implement this, the bill:

* Expands the GE Council to include equal representation from two- and four-year institutions.
* Directs the GE Council to perform annual reviews of the transfer matrix, beginning October 1, 2025.
* Charges the Council with identifying areas of misalignment, including inconsistencies in credit hours, non-application of credits toward degree programs, and courses with the highest transfer volume.
* Requires the GE Council to submit recommendations to CCHE for potential action based on its findings.
1. **Staff Analysis**

The staff recognizes that:

* The GE Council plays a critical technical advisory role and has now been given enhanced responsibilities under law.
* CCHE is not required to adopt all recommendations from the GE Council but must review them with respect to policy and matrix modifications.
* By responding to Council recommendations, the Commission can ensure statewide alignment of general education courses, reduce time-to-degree for transfer students, and comply with statutory mandates for transparency and student rights.
* A structured timeline and reporting mechanism between the GE Council, Department staff, and the Commission will be essential to ensure smooth implementation by the October 2025 deadline and beyond.
1. **Staff Recommendations**

**Staff recommends that the Commission accept the statutory charge to review and act, as appropriate, on recommendations provided annually by the General Education Council beginning in October 2025, and direct Department staff to prepare a formal mechanism for this annual review process.**

1. **Statutory Authority**

**C.R.S. 23-1-108.5(3)(b.5)**

“(b.5) No later than October 1, 2025, and on or before October 1 of each year thereafter, the general education council shall review the guaranteed transfer pathway general education curriculum course review matrix and make recommendations to the commission to address:
(I) The courses with the highest transfer enrollment and volume;
(II) The courses with the highest frequency of receiving full credit acceptance but not having the credit applied toward a program of study; and
(III) The courses with the highest rates of misalignment in credit hours across institutions. The department shall ensure equal representation on the general education council from all state institutions of higher education.”

**Attachment(s): 2025-09 GE Council Report for SB24-164.docx**