**To: Glynis Ridley, Chair, Department of English**

**From: Hristomir A. Stanev, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of English**

**Date: 17 August 2016**

**Re: Report on the Beginning of Academic Year 2016-2017**

**State of the Major:**

As of this moment (Spring 2016 data), we have 217 confirmed majors and 34 confirmed minors with those numbers subject to adjustment once we receive updates from A&S at the beginning of Fall 2016. It is likely that the administration might report larger numbers and include intended majors. I expect these numbers to rise slightly as the semester gets underway and students enroll. In addition, as of 08/17/2016, there are 11 students among our confirmed active majors who have not yet registered for Fall 2016 classes. They have been invited to do so; further investigation reveals that none of those students has registered for any Fall 2016 classes. We have also had a recent increase in independent study requests, particularly among current or returning students who have a minimal number of credits to fulfill. This is an issue, which, I believe, requires further discussion, given the demand it places upon our faculty. On another note, we have had to cancel or change several under-enrolled classes prior to the start of Fall 2016. Having to reconsider the frequency at which certain classes in the undergraduate curriculum are being offered, such as the 300-level surveys, for instance, would perhaps help us to minimize future cancellations.

We also graduated 41 students during Spring 2016 and we gave out five awards for a total $ 33 600. The recipients were:

The Burton Award for the Highest GPA in English ($ 100) was awarded to Alexandra Winters.

The Smith scholarship ($ 8500) was awarded to Benjamin Miles.

The Thomas scholarship ($ 8000) was awarded to Blake Schreiner.

One-half of the Riedley scholarship ($ 8500) was awarded to Kelsey Hall.

The other half was awarded to James Miller ($8500).

**Initiatives for AY 2016-2017:**

--Represent the Department at a variety of recruiting events (such as the A&S Open House this week, the Majors Fair, held in mid-September, or the Honors Open Day, held on the Belknap campus, any potential REACH events).

--Work on generating constructive SLO evaluations during Fall 2016.

--Potentially revisit our CUE projects and compile a list of more specific, disciplinary criteria for completing CUEs.

--Revisit the idea of online classes, as well as the frequency at which we would like to see independent studies undertaken.

--Manage student scholarship competitions.

--Consider recruitment strategies in order to increase the numbers of our majors.