5 November 1999

TO: Brian Price, for the General Education DTF

FROM: Burt Guttman

SUBJECT: Expectations of Evergreen graduates

As I told you, the little discussion group I was part of (for which Sharon Anthony took notes) worked its way around to a generally useful point of view, which I think I can fairly represent here. This is clearly my own formulation, and I'm sure members of the group would disagree with some points in my list, but I sincerely hope you'll take it seriously.

In Jeannie Hahn's happy phrase, we expect our graduates to have certain *abilities and sensibilities.* I now suggest that the following is a fair representation of them, not in any particularly order of importance:

- The ability to read a wide variety of texts critically, analytically, and with sensitivity to their broader implications; in particular, an interest in--and desire to pursue--the large, timeless questions that have traditionally been raised by works of creative literature and philosopy.

- The ability to reason critically, to think logically, and to analyze the logic of arguments developed by others.

- The ability to develop and articulate ideas clearly and forcefully through speaking and writing of various types; the ability to use one's writing as a mechanism for developing one's own thoughts. (It should go without saying that this writing is expected to conform to the best rules and traditions of English grammar, punctuation, and spelling.)

- Sensitivity to the importance of the arts in human life and sufficient knowledge of at least one of the arts for it to have a significant place in one's life.

- The ability to think quantitatively and to