1) **Organization:** UAA, GER Assessment Task Force

2) **Your Name:** Bill Myers

3) **Position:** Chair, UAA GER Assessment Task Force

4) **Contact Information:** Susan Kalina, Vice Provost of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, smkalina@uaa.alaska.edu, 907-786-1988

5) **Title of Project:** National Best Practices in Assessment of GER Student Learning Outcomes

6) **Project Objective:** The UAA GER Assessment Task force is charged with investigating current practices in the assessment of GER student learning outcomes at the national level. We are targeting UAA’s peer institutions, UAS, UAF, other selected universities and national organizations for research into their GER assessment practices (see attached list). Based on this research, the task force will compile a report of best GER assessment practices and make recommendations on implementation of a GER assessment process for UAA. The report will be delivered to the UAA faculty (via Faculty Senate and open forums) and the Provost.

UAA requests that Hanover compile research on the following three key questions:
- What are the General Educational Outcomes of these respective institutions?
- How, specifically, are these GER outcomes assessed (by whom, how, when, how often)?
- What is done with the GER assessment results (recommendations or actions taken)?

Research provided by Hanover will be utilized by the task force when analyzing, writing up, making recommendations and presenting its findings to the UAA faculty, the Faculty Senate and the UAA Provost.

7) **Project Scope and tasks:** We are asking Hanover to research the GER (General Education Requirements) assessment practices at each of the listed institutions, focusing on the following specific areas:

   a) **GER Approach:** what are the GER models for each institution? For example, do they require a set of General Ed. core courses; do they follow a distributive model; or a competency model?

   b) **GER outcomes:** what are the specific general education requirements outcomes for each institution?

   c) **GER assessment cycle:** is GER assessment done annually, over a several year period, never, or some other combination of time; are all of the outcomes assessed at once, or are segments of the GERs assessed rotationally, over a period of time?

   d) **GER assessment tools, measures or rubrics:** examples of the types of material collected and the ways in which student learning outcomes are measured (exit exams, pre/post...
tests, e-portfolios, selected classroom assignments, surveys, faculty course reports, and so on)
e) GER data collection, analysis and archiving: who collects the GER assessment data, where, when, how. Who analyzes the data and when? What is done with the data, is it archived, put on a website, made available for review?
f) GER results and actions: What is done with the GER assessment data? Is there a feedback loop? Do committees, programs, administration make recommendations, take actions of the results of assessment of GER student learning outcomes?
g) Open or Selective Enrollment Policies: is their enrollment policy open, moderately selective or rigorous? What are the institution’s admission standards in terms of national test scores like the ACT, SAT, and so on? If a more open enrollment policy, does that affect how they assess their general education outcomes?
h) Placement in General Education Courses: Does the institution have a placement policy for its general education students and courses? If the institution is identified as ‘open enrollment,’ what placement tests or measures are employed to place students into general education courses? What level of achievement do students need to start on their GERs?

8) Specific Sources: Please research the following list of academic institutions. In addition to addressing the above research questions, please also:
--research their websites and provide specific website addresses for GER assessment
--contact and interview campus leaders on General Education assessment

The lists of institutions to research:

Appalachian State University     City College of San Francisco
Clemson University               Ferris State University
Florida Gulf Coast University    Illinois State University
Montgomery College Maryland      Portland State University (Oregon)
St. Cloud State University       Southern Utah University
University of Montana            Washburn University
Western New Mexico University

9) Date and Urgency: Urgent. We would like the results of Hanover’s research by December 6, 2012, sooner if possible.