

## Brothers, Sheila C

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**From:** Subbaswamy, Kumble  
**Sent:** Friday, December 01, 2006 3:40 PM  
**To:** Kraemer, Philipp; Hoch, Steven; Johnson, Nancy; Grabau, Larry; Anderson, Kimberly W  
**Cc:** Tagavi, Kaveh  
**Subject:** USP Reform Steering Committee  
**Attachments:** UK-LEAP.doc

**To:** Phil Kraemer, Associate Provost  
 Steve Hoch, Arts & Sciences  
 Nancy Johnson, Business & Economics  
 Larry Grabau, Senate Council Representative  
 Kim Anderson, Engineering

**From:** Kumble Subbaswamy, Provost  
 Kaveh Tagavi, Senate Council Chair

**Re:** USP Reform Steering Committee

**Date:** December 1, 2006

We want to thank you for agreeing to serve on the USP Reform Steering Committee, which Phil Kraemer will chair. As you know, the appointment of such a committee was recommended by the General Education Reform and Assessment (GERA) Committee which coordinated a campus wide discussion on general education last year. Your charge is to work with all relevant stakeholders to generate a concrete curricular framework for a new general education program for the University of Kentucky and get it passed by the University Senate by May 15, 2007. Richard Greissman will provide staff support to the Committee.

As you know, conversations regarding the need for reforming the current University Studies Program began more than two years ago, and both the External Review Committee (ERC) and GERA have done an extraordinary job of identifying strengths and weaknesses, and pointing the way toward needed changes. In addition, the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) has led a national dialog on general education resulting in a substantial body of reference material. In order to facilitate and expedite your committee's work, one of us (Swamy) has prepared the enclosed whitepaper as a starting point for the development of a new curricular framework. It draws heavily on the ERC Report, the GERA Report, and AAC&U resources. We propose the following process for moving forward: (1) The provost will circulate the whitepaper to the campus community and request that comments, criticisms, and suggestions or alternate proposals be sent to the Steering Committee by February 15, 2007; (2) Formal responses will be solicited from college curriculum committees, the Undergraduate Council, and the USP Committee by the same deadline; (3) The Steering Committee will, based on all the input as well as its own wisdom, prepare and submit a final curricular framework for formal consideration by the University Senate by April 1, 2007.

Assuming timely passage of a curricular framework, the provost's office will provide resources (including summer salaries) to an appropriately constituted faculty team to flesh out the curriculum (including the development of any new courses, as necessary) during the summer of 2007. Then, the fully developed, new general education curriculum will be presented to the undergraduate colleges and the University Senate in early fall 2007, with the intention of its approval by January 2008, and adoption (implementation) in fall 2008. This is, in fact, the time line urged by GERA.

USP Reform is a critical element of UK's Top 20 aspirations. We thank you in advance for your leadership of this major effort.