

Fall 2009 Phase GenEd Implementation Plan

DRAFT DOCUMENT FOR AUGUST 17TH SENATE COUNCIL RETREAT

After University Senate approval in May of a new General Education Program, Provost Subbaswamy issued a call to the University Faculty for proposals to develop pilot courses across all ten areas of the approved curriculum. The Provost anticipated that he would fund thirty faculty, who would develop their courses over the Summer of 2009 and submit them for vetting and initial approval by college curriculum committees in the early Fall 2009 semester. Furthermore, the Provost anticipated that at least a dozen of the approved courses would be offered in the Spring 2010 semester as a down payment on his commitment to demonstrate to the University Senate that courses across all areas of the new curriculum could be successfully developed, taught and evaluated. Finally, all courses would be vetted during the fall of 2009 by faculty GenEd vetting teams.

Much to the Provost's delight, some sixty-six faculty submitted proposals, of which sixty course projects were funded. In the next few weeks we shall determine how many of the sixty faculty will be able to offer their courses in the Spring 2010 semester. Our intention is that a respectable number of courses will be offered in Spring 2010 (and perhaps Summer 2010), such that the Provost will be able to present to the University Senate material evidence of the intellectual and pedagogic integrity and viability of the new General Education Program.

What follows is a draft enumeration of the tasks that faculty governance bodies and the administration will need to accomplish in close collaboration this fall, if we are to succeed in an ambitious, but eminently doable, undertaking of offering pilot GenEd courses in the Spring 2010 semester and beyond. The tasks, chronologically ordered, are:

By September 30th:

- Summer 2009 GenEd faculty complete the GenEd Course Developers workshop and submit their proposed courses for initial vetting by the appropriate college curriculum committee
- Those courses targeted for the Spring 2010 semester are reviewed first by college curriculum committees and information on approved courses is transmitted to the University Registrar by college deans for preliminary inclusion in the Spring 2010 schedule of classes, subject to formal review by Faculty GenEd Vetting Teams.
- USP course-requirement equivalencies are established to ensure that students who successfully complete one or more of the pilot GenEd courses receive the appropriate USP credit

By September 30th (continued):

- A publicity campaign is mounted by the Office of the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education to advertise the availability of the GenEd pilot courses in priority registration for the Spring 2010 semester.
- Faculty GenEd vetting teams are elected by college faculties
- Initial vetting rubrics are finalized and workshops scheduled to train faculty GenEd vetting teams in the use of the rubrics as a tool in the holistic evaluation of GenEd course proposals

By October 30th:

- The pilot courses developed by the Summer 2009 GenEd faculty are vetted by the appropriate faculty GenEd vetting team
- Summer GenEd faculty revise and resubmit their pilot courses to the faculty GenEd vetting teams, as needed

By the December 2009 University Senate meeting

- The conveners of the faculty vetting teams offer preliminary assessments of the initial vetting rounds, including the efficacy of the vetting rubrics
- University Senate action on those favorable recommendations from the Faculty GenEd Vetting Teams on GenEd pilot courses

The discussion, revision and adoption of this draft plan for the Fall 2009 phase of a GenEd implementation plan might progress as follows:

August 17th Senate Council Retreat

- SC members and Provost staffers discuss and revise draft of the Fall 2009 phase of a GenEd implementation plan

August 24th Senate Council meeting

- Continuation of discussion on Fall 2009 phase

August 31st

- Senate Council adoption of the Fall 2009 phase of a GenEd implementation plan