

## Brothers, Sheila C

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**From:** Greissman, Richard  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2009 6:00 PM  
**To:** Randall, David C  
**Cc:** Brothers, Sheila C; Mullen, Michael D; Carvalho, Susan E  
**Subject:** GenEd materials for Senate Council Retreat  
**Attachments:** Fall 2009 phase - GenEd implementation (draft).pdf; GenEd Implementation - Fall 2009 reverse timeline (DRAFT).pdf; GenEd Course Approval Process (draft proposal).pdf

Dear Dave,

Mike Mullen and I, in consultation with Swamy and Susan Carvalho, have produced a set of draft documents that propose a Fall 2009 plan to move forward with GenEd implementation. We would like to use this set of three documents (see attachments) as the springboard for a vigorous discussion on GenEd matters at the Senate Council retreat on the 17th of August. We ask for the Council's indulgence – this orchestration of the fall phase of implementation may appear uncomfortably prescriptive. We seek neither to offend nor presume. Rather, we have labored, perhaps unartfully, to balance the responsibilities and prerogatives of faculty governance with the administrative imperatives of the hour. Please regard the content of these documents as a starting point for discussion at the retreat.

Last May the University Senate invited the Provost to return to the Senate floor no later than the fall of 2010 to continue the discussion about the feasibility of implementing the approved GenEd Program as of the Fall 2011. We believe the Senators articulated in May a two-fold contingency: (1) the University Senate would need firm reassurances from the Provost that the resources (faculty, graduate students, instructional materials, classrooms, etc.) necessary for a successful implementation of the GenEd Program would be available as of Fall 2011; and, (2) the University Senate would need to see evidence that prototype GenEd courses could be successfully developed and taught. The evidence for the latter contingency would be both qualitative, elicited from faculty who taught pilot GenEd courses in the spring, summer or fall terms of 2010, and quantitative (assessment data from teaching evaluations and other survey measures).

That said, we must act very quickly if we are to offer in Spring 2010 GenEd pilot courses that have been properly vetted by faculty governance bodies. Mike Mullen and I, with the continued and much welcomed support of Susan Carvalho, wish to work with the Senate Council to fashion a course approval process for the first cohort of GenEd pilot courses that ensures we meet the October deadline for scheduling conferences associated with Spring 2010 priority registration while maintaining the integrity of the University course approval process as defined by the University Senate.

Our draft proposal (in the attached materials) outlines a two-stage vetting process to (1) get GenEd pilot courses "on the books" (after a thorough review by college curriculum committees) so that academic and faculty advisors, who will meet with their advisees as early as October 1 to discuss scheduling for Spring 2010 classes, can encourage students to enroll in approved pilot GenEd courses, and then (2) to conduct a more comprehensive

vetting by faculty-elected GenEd vetting teams in October and November, providing sufficient time for faculty to “revise and resubmit” their Spring 2010 pilot course offerings to the vetting teams, as needed, and ensuring a full review of course proposals before University Senate action.

At its December meeting, the University Senate could consider reports from the faculty vetting teams that discuss their preliminary assessments of the initial round of vetting, including the efficacy of the vetting rubrics. The University Senate could also take action at that time on those favorable recommendations from the Faculty GenEd Vetting Teams on GenEd pilot courses to ensure that courses offered in the Spring 2010 semester have had a full and proper vetting.

We look forward to the discussion at the Senate Council retreat. Mike and I would also welcome any and all initial reactions that Senate Council members may wish to communicate ahead of the August 17th retreat.

Cheers,  
Richard