



MEMORANDUM

To: University Community

From: Elizabeth Garrett  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: October 4, 2013

Subject: Update on the New General Education Curriculum

As you know, the University community has been engaged in the process of evaluating and modifying its General Education curriculum. I want to update you on the substantial progress that has been made to date, and to make you aware of the next steps in the process that will assure a **full launch of the new GE program in Fall 2015**.

In spring 2012, a faculty committee was convened to review the current General Education curriculum and to suggest modifications. The outcome of these deliberations was posted online for comment. Based on the committee's suggestions and the feedback from many faculty, staff and students, general principles of the new curriculum were established. Some of these principles include expanding the curriculum to include student engagement with the arts and with quantitative reasoning, allowing appropriate major and minor courses to satisfy GE requirements, and allowing some limited number of GE classes to be taught by faculty from outside Dornsife College. In spring 2013, a second faculty committee was established to write the overall GE program objectives and the course descriptions, learning objectives, and guidelines for each of the new GE categories and themes. You will find details regarding the work of the first two faculty committees, including their reports that will guide the next phases of implementation, at <http://strategic.usc.edu/ge-redesign/>

I am pleased to announce the formation of the GE oversight committee, co-chaired by Gene Bickers, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs, and Steve Lamy, Vice Dean for Academic Programs, Dornsife College. The other members of the committee are listed at the end of this memo. The committee's charge is to ensure that courses proposed for inclusion in the GE curriculum are appropriate for the given category and that they have the level of rigor worthy of our excellent undergraduate students. While this process is underway, we will also be working with the Office of the Registrar to put in place articulation agreements with other colleges and universities and to ensure that we have sufficient classroom space to accommodate the new program.

I want to thank everyone who has participated in this process to date, especially the members of the faculty committees. Our General Education curriculum is crucial to the success of our undergraduates, and I appreciate the thoughtfulness that everyone involved has brought to the job of updating our GE programs to meet the aspirations of our university and the challenges of this century.

cc: C. L. Max Nikias  
 Robert Abeles  
 Al Checcio  
 Todd Dickey  
 Thomas Jackiewicz  
 Thomas S. Sayles  
 Charles Gomer

### **General Education Committee, 2013-2014**

#### *Chairs*

Gene Bickers, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs  
 Steve Lamy, Vice Dean for Academic Programs, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts  
 and Sciences

#### *Committee*

Andrea Armani, Viterbi School of Engineering  
 Will Berelson, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 Jeb Barnes, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 Laurie Brand, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 Leo Braudy, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 Sharon Carnicke, School of Dramatic Arts  
 Werner Dappen, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 Roberto Diaz, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 Suzanne Edmands, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 Tuck Finch, Davis School of Gerontology  
 Kate Flint, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 Priya Jaikumar, School of Cinematic Arts  
 Ayse Imrohoroglu, Marshall School of Business  
 Lanita Jacobs, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 Andrei Marmor, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 David McKemy, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 John Monterosso, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 Roumyana Pancheva, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 Manuel Pastor, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 Michael Renov, School of Cinematic Arts  
 Gary Rosen, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 Andrew Simpson, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 Jacob Soll, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 Greg Thalmann, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
 Travis Williams, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences