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MEMORANDUM NO. OVCAA-BMP 16-113

TO : ALL DEANS, DIRECTORS, HEADS OF ACADEMIC UNITS
ALL FACULTY MEMBERS


FROM : BENITO M. PACHECO, Ph.D. 
Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT : Potential New GE Courses: Symposium and Fair on 21 January 2016

DATE : 12 January 2016

Part I – Potential Resolutions on GE at Special UPD UC Meeting on 25 January 2016

As the UPD UC Executive Committee resolved on 11 December 2015 and affirmed on 11 January 2016, 18 potential resolutions on General Education shall be presented for approval at a special UC Meeting being called on Monday, 25 January 2016, 9:00AM. The potential resolutions have been revised, considering the feedback by the Colleges and Units on the earlier version of Memorandum No. OVCAA-BMP 15-099 dated 30 October 2015. Please see the Annex hereto.

The formal Notice of Meeting is being issued by the University Registrar as UC Secretary.

Part II – Potential New GE Courses: Symposium and Fair on 21-22 January 2016 (TBC)

Potential Resolution 6 states, “[t]he GE courses may come from existing GE courses that continue to meet the GE program objectives, and new GE courses that may be approved, possibly including but not limited to the System 11 GE courses, courses from the University Writing and Communication Program, and Foundations of Human Kinetics.”

Proponents, advocates or champions of such potential new GE courses are invited to present the course design during the Symposium, and to meet during the Fair with other interested parties for further discussions that may help improve the proposed courses.

Presentations in plenary will be prioritized on Thursday, 21 January 2016; depending on the number of courses involved, the Fair may be either in the afternoon on the same day or in the morning of the following day, Friday, 22 January. Venue will be the National Institute of Physics Auditorium. **The detailed program will be announced on Tuesday, 19 January.**

Proponents, advocates or champions are invited to express their intention to present by reply email to ovcaa@ovcaa.upd.edu.ph **Attention: Ms. Jessica R. Pagaduan on or before Friday, 15 January 2016.**

Thank you very much for according the highest importance to UP General Education.

Potential Resolutions on GE at Special UPD UC Meeting on 25 January 2016

Revised and endorsed by the UPD UC Executive Committee
on 11 December 2015

- 1) There is a need to review and revise the GE program and GE courses given the national and international trends affecting the Philippine higher education system.
- 2) Liberal education is the bedrock of UP's GE program.
- 3) GE courses should develop multiple literacies, higher-order cognitive and social skills, and ability to utilize methods of inquiry.

- 4) UP education is holistic, and should always be approached as such. GE and non-GE courses are viewed as complementary rather than competing courses.
- 5) Not all GE courses shall be interdisciplinary.
- 6) The GE courses may come from existing GE courses that continue to meet the GE program objectives, and new GE courses that may be approved, possibly including but not limited to the System 11 GE courses, courses from the University Writing and Communication Program, and Foundations of Human Kinetics.
- 7) The minimum number of units in the GE curriculum shall be 21.
- 8) * The existing system of classifying GE courses by main domain (Arts and Humanities; Mathematics, Science and Technology; and Social Sciences and Philosophy) shall still be used in the GE program.
- 9) * There shall be 9 units of core GE courses, one 3-unit course from each domain, that shall be determined by the CU for all undergraduate students.

* renumbered 8 & 9

- 10) ** The core GE courses shall have adequate Philippine context.
- 11) GE courses shall not have prerequisite courses. However, some GE courses may require junior or senior standing.
- 12) Individual undergraduate programs shall have their respective proposals on the set of GE courses that will be taken by their students beyond the core GE courses.

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- 13) The use of Filipino as a medium of instruction shall still be implemented on a voluntary basis in accordance with the specific provisions in the Language Policy of UP. Sections of GE courses that are taught in Filipino shall be indicated in the CRS.
- 14) Both junior and senior faculty may teach GE courses so long as they have the specified necessary qualifications and strategies for teaching these courses. Regular orientation and continuing education for GE faculty shall be held to ensure a common GE perspective and the quality of delivery of instruction.
- 15) Current GE courses shall be reviewed periodically to determine if they remain aligned with the goals and objectives of the GE program.

- 16) The GE program shall be carefully assessed at various points.
- 17) The assessment shall consider the perspectives of students, teachers, and administrators. A comprehensive plan shall cover normative assessment (pretest of students and gathering of baseline data), program implementation (teachers and administrators), and outcomes (exit evaluation of students).
- 18) The UPD GE Center and the UPD GE Committee shall plan the orientation and continuing education of GE faculty and the assessment of GE program.

A Framework for General Education in the University of the Philippines in the 21st Century

The UP System GE Task Force and GE Council will receive the resolutions of UPD for incorporation in the next draft GE framework, which will be considered as a whole by each CU's University Council.