

## MEMORANDUM

To: University Senate  
From: Eric C. Bielefeld, Chair, Council on Academic Affairs  
Subject : New University-wide General Education Program  
Date: April 17, 2019

### A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW UNIVERSITY-WIDE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Whereas a general education program represents an important component of the academic experience for all undergraduate students on all campuses; and

Whereas currently there are 12 colleges that offer undergraduate programs: Arts and Sciences; Dentistry; Education and Human Ecology; Engineering; Fisher College of Business; Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences; Medicine; Nursing, Pharmacy, John Glenn College of Public Affairs; Public Health, and Social Work; and

Whereas the current general education curriculum, implemented in 1990, is not uniform across the colleges in content and/or credit hours, and has not been revised substantially since its creation; and

Whereas in December 2016, the Council on Academic Affairs, based on a recommendation from the University-level Advisory Committee (ULAC) on the general education (GE) curriculum, to begin a formal review of that curriculum, established a General Education (GE) Review Coordinating Committee of faculty, students and staff; and

Whereas throughout 2017, that Committee held two rounds of listening sessions across the University, solicited continuous input through various forms of communication, reviewed research activity on general education and GE models at other institutions, and in March 2018, issued a Final Report; and

Whereas that Report recommended a new GE program that would apply to all colleges, with a structure that includes foundations, themes, and bookends, with well-defined learning outcomes for the program overall and for its components, with 44-47 credit hours ; and

Whereas during the 2018-19 academic year, the colleges and regional campuses reviewed the report, identified areas that needed elaboration/clarification/modification, and specified a set of issues that needed to be addressed before implementation could occur; and

Whereas through that process, a modified structure was proposed that retains the foundations/themes/bookends structure with some revisions, for a total of 32-39 credit hours; and

- Whereas the revised proposal was shared with all colleges and regional campuses, and was then endorsed by each of the 12 Colleges, following its formal curricular review/approval process; and
- Whereas if approved, a University-wide Implementation Committee immediately will be formed to address implementation issues; throughout that process it will inform the Colleges and campuses of its ongoing work; and then report its final decisions, at which time each of the Colleges can formally adopt the new program; and
- Whereas implementation of the General Education program would occur in Autumn 2021;
- Whereas the revised proposal was reviewed by the Faculty Council on April 11, 2019 and then reviewed and approved unanimously by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on April 17, 2019;

Therefore be it resolved that the University Senate approve the proposal to establish a new General Education program for all undergraduate students, to take effect Autumn 2021, and respectfully inform the Board of Trustees.