

## Early History of the ILC

The impetus for undertaking a revision to the GE program was the start of a new institutional strategic planning process. During development of a strong theme for the new plan, an institution-wide set of planning groups, including the University Planning Council, distilled a set of institutional values (collaborative, culturally adept, globally engaged, innovative, creative, transformative) and ultimately settled on the idea that LSU cultivates leaders. Further, there was agreement that the “attributes” of successful leaders must be developed through and thus fully instantiated in the curriculum, the general education curriculum being the common experience all students have. The tagline of the strategic plan is “Leading Louisiana. Impacting the World.”

The Vice Provost was asked to chair a committee to achieve aligning the institutional values with what ultimately were called ‘proficiencies’ in the general education curriculum. At the very beginning of the process the committee chair coordinated with the faculty senate executive committee to negotiate a set of committee members. Several parameters were established to guide the formation of the committee. These included minimizing the number of people appointed to the committee who had already been serving on the faculty senate general education committee (to avert potential inertia associated with being heavily invested in the existing model) and making sure committee members were able to continuously commit for a long-term appointment (up to 2 years, including through summers). Potential appointees who were soon to go on sabbatical, had extensive research or service travel commitments, or who carried significant service loads were vetted out. This was purely a practical matter, as many a committee has ground to a halt because appointee interest or enthusiasm dwindled over time. Other key traits included familiarity with the basic purpose and function of the general education part of the curriculum and a reputation for being thoughtful and industrious. In the end, a well-balanced committee of scholars committed to the project. The group was diverse in terms of intellectual background/home discipline, stage of career, and along the usual sociodemographic characteristics. Committee members are listed below.

Richard C Moreland; English

Kathleen A Bratton; Political Science

Blake P Howe; Music

Frederick G Ortner; Art

Carol M Wicks; Geology and Geophysics

Dimitris E Nikitopoulos; Mechanical Engineering

Mandi J Lopez; Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Vincent L Wilson; Environmental Sciences

William E Kelso, Renewable Natural Resources

George Cochran, Mathematics

Bobby L Matthews; Office of Assessment

Erica L Borne; Student Representative

Mari Fuentes-Martin; Dean of Students

Matthew R Lee; VPAPSS