

# COMMISSION ON GENERAL EDUCATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

January 24, 2005: 10:00am - 5:15pm

South Hall Annex, University of California, Berkeley

Commission website: <http://cshe.berkeley.edu/gec/>

---

## AGENDA

- I. Welcome remarks (Neil Smelser and Michael Schudson) and introductions of Commission members.**
- II. Review of how the Commission came to be.**
- III. Changes in the external environment of the university.**
  - A. The involvement of the university in research, including changes (usually in an applied direction) of funding by the federal government and foundations. The continuing if not accelerating dominance of research culture and its spread into institutions other than major research institutions.
  - B. Changes in the occupational structure of the society, and the continuing march of vocationalization. Threats to liberal arts?
  - C. Changes in the world: globalization, diversification, the politics of nations, the changing nature of warfare and international stability. Others? Implications for general education?
  - D. Changing character of citizenship for Americans, and Implications for general education?
  - E. The ongoing information revolution.
  - F. Others?
- IV. Continuities and changes in the internal environment of the University.**
  - A. The continuation of the department. Curricular implications.
  - B. The role (or non-role) of deans and colleges in general education.
  - C. The new role of Provosts/Deans of Undergraduate Education in the UC system.
  - D. Budgetary realities and implications for general education. Overall budgetary situation and responsibilities for budgetary allocation.
  - E. Available (and not available) mechanisms for curricular innovation and implementation. The faculty culture and general education.
  - F. Implications of information technology for teaching in general and GE in particular/
  - G. Others?
- V. What should a Commission Report look like?**

Historical sketch of GE? Current status of GE in major research universities? Diagnosis of external and internal environments? Recommendations-structural and curricular. Appendices on reform efforts on UC campuses in recent history?
- VI. Brief discussion of audiences for commission report and Dissemination plans.**
- VII. Allocation of assignments to Commission members before spring meeting of the Commission.**

## **VIII. Discussion with Carol Schneider of the Association of American Colleges and Universities.\***

### **IX. Adjourn.**

---

\*Carol Geary Schneider has been president of the Association of American Colleges and Universities since 1998. With a membership of about 1000 colleges and universities, AAC&U is the leading national organization devoted to advancing and strengthening undergraduate liberal education.

Since becoming President of AAC&U, Dr. Schneider has initiated several major initiatives, including Greater Expectations: the Commitment to Quality as a Nation Goes to College, and the Presidents' Campaign for the Advancement of Liberal Learning (Presidents' CALL). Under Dr. Schneider's leadership, AAC&U has also expanded its work on diversity, launched several new projects on civic engagement and the disciplines, and deepened its capacity to support campuses working on educational change.

A more detailed biography is available at [http://www.aacu.org/press\\_room/experts/cgs.cfm](http://www.aacu.org/press_room/experts/cgs.cfm)

---