

FOREWORD

General education is the bedrock of UP education. Even as it has gone through various revisions, GE has maintained its aim of providing interdisciplinary liberal education to students before they specialize in their respective disciplines. The implementation of the K-12 pre-collegiate program has now required another rethinking, since some of the usual GE courses are expected to be covered by the two years of Senior High School.

This issue of *Philippine Social Sciences Review* presents four of the papers presented at a GE conference of the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy. The K-12 program is outlined and critiqued; the positive effect of requiring courses instead of being freely chosen is, happily, statistically proven; teacher initiatives in developing novel strategies are shown to be effective, along with the use of Filipino as an academic medium; and insights into the link between critical and creative thinking leave us with an image of their necessary *pas de deux*.

Future issues will continue ventilating more ideas on general education as the university shapes its new GE program for Academic Year 2018, when Grade 12 graduates become the new breed of Iskolar ng Bayan. It is hoped that some of the contributions will themselves become part of the reading materials for the social science courses in the new GE.

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Guest editor