
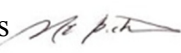


MEMORANDUM

TO: Academic Deans and Faculty

FROM: Michael W. Quick, PhD, Executive Vice Provost 
Gene Bickers, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs 

DATE: March 21, 2011

SUBJECT: Welcome Week Micro-Seminars 2011

Office of the Provost

Michael W. Quick, PhD

Executive Vice Provost
Professor of
Biological Sciences

We invite you to apply to participate in USC's **Welcome Week Micro-Seminars Program**, which takes place this year on August 18 and 19. Faculty presenters will receive a stipend of \$500 as compensation for their work. **The due date for receipt of applications is Monday, April 11.**

This is the sixth year for the Micro-Seminars Program, whose purpose is to enhance interactions between our faculty and undergraduate students. A particularly important time for promoting interactions and fostering a sense of academic engagement is the first week of campus life for our newly arrived freshmen. Over 1000 students participated in 55 different micro-seminars in August 2010, and the response from faculty and students was excellent.

The program is described in detail below, and a one-page application form is included as an attachment.

Description of the Program

As part of their introduction to academic life at USC, incoming freshmen are encouraged to enroll in a two-session Welcome Week Micro-Seminar. The micro-seminars are not graded and do not carry course credit. This year the sessions are scheduled to take place from 2:30-4:00 PM on **Thursday, August 18**, and from 10:00-11:30 AM on **Friday, August 19**.

The purpose of the micro-seminars is two-fold:

- To introduce students to new subject matter in a field of interest to both them and the participating faculty member; and
- To promote discussions between students and faculty in an informal, small-group setting before the official start of classes.

The enrollment in each micro-seminar is limited to **twenty students**. Students enroll on-line, and participant lists are forwarded to faculty in advance. In

2010 many faculty welcomed their students by e-mail before they arrived on campus.

Micro-seminar topics may be proposed from the full range of humanities, social and natural sciences, arts, and professions, as well as pop culture. In 2010 micro-seminar titles included “The Roots of Western Storytelling: Athenian Drama and the *Antigone* of Sophocles”; “Stem Cell Therapy: Hope or Hype”; “America’s Revolution and Its Legacy”; and “Classical Actor Training for Popular Media.”

All full-time faculty are invited to participate, including both those who routinely teach undergraduates and those who teach in graduate and professional programs across all of our eighteen schools on the University Park and Health Sciences Campuses. This is a unique opportunity for faculty in our graduate programs to interact with our first-year undergraduates.

To submit a micro-seminar topic for consideration, please complete the attached form, which requires a title and short topic description. **Keep in mind that the scheduled contact time is three hours spread out over two sessions.** It is necessary to commit to teaching on both Thursday, August 18, and Friday, August 19. Forms may be submitted by e-mail to Gene Bickers (bickers@usc.edu) or as a hardcopy to the Office of Undergraduate Programs, GFS 227, MC 1695. The due date for receipt of submissions is **Monday, April 11**. Notifications of approval and additional information will be provided by early May.