Dear Dr. Lepper,

Thank you for your thoughtful and passionate letter about the new QUEST model. May I have your permission to share it with the rest of CULE?

As you can see, the proposed model focuses on lifelong learning of skills such as critical thinking and moves away from content in the sciences, the humanities, and the social sciences.

The “natural and physical worlds” language was approved by the Faculty Senate (both in 2013 and 2014) and was certainly not intended to be in any way whatsoever an assault on science. The bullets that elaborate on that learning outcome (below), I hope are evidence that this is not part of an anti-science agenda.

Students will
- analyze components and dynamics of natural and physical worlds
- develop models to explain phenomena within the natural and physical worlds
- identify the role of scientific methods in the study of natural and physical worlds

Other faculty have also contacted us to express their concern about the removal of the laboratory requirement. Our decision to make that recommendation was based on the concern that the value of the present lab courses for non-science majors. We will certainly be reviewing all the suggestions and feedback about the proposed model.