

University Faculty Senate
Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policies Committee
Wendy Gordon
183rd Fall Plenary at SUNY System Administration
October 10 - 12, 2019

Committee Charge

The Committee will provide advice and guidance to the Faculty Senate on matters relating to undergraduate programs and policies throughout the University. To these ends, the Committee may review such areas as existing and proposed curricula, standards for academic degrees, undergraduate academic assessment, teaching techniques and evaluation, special undergraduate programs, articulation among units of State University of New York and the various aspects of international education and development.

Committee Members 2019-20

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SUNY Student Association Liaison

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Summary of Committee Actions since Spring Plenary

- Approved draft of “Building Individualized Course Outcome Models to Enhance Student Success: a Primer.” Requested and received modest funding to compensate external review of the document and began soliciting reviewers.
- Through the committee’s System Liaison, Dan Knox, we made contact with the “Cross Registration Group Design Group” at SUNY. We requested that they communicate clearly and in a timely way with cross-registered students who may be negatively impacted when the date to withdraw from a course differs between the home campus and host campus, resulting in failing grades that could otherwise be withdrawals.

Agenda Items for 2019-20

In the Fall planning meeting, the committee discussed a number of issues both carried over from last year and bubbling up from contemporary context. Through discussion and exploration of the possible, they narrowed the list to these goals:

- 1) Finalize and distribute “Building Individualized Course Outcome Models to Enhance Student Success: a Primer,” by Ron Sarnier, SUNY Poly, to aid in advising students through data analytics. This is a step-by-step ‘how-to’ document explaining a process to utilize campus data to determine which students are at risk of d/f/w in particular courses.
- 2) Assess and work to abate student issues that may arise as a result of the varying withdrawal dates used around the system. Immediate focus is to work with the Cross-Registration Design Group to improve communications to cross-registered students prior to the final withdrawal date for the host campus.
- 3) Collect and examine existing documents regarding learning outcomes, curriculum mapping, and other best practices to aid campuses and programs in approaching significant curriculum revision.
- 4) Begin to assemble a document to help faculty, chairs, and governance groups as well as campus administrators understand the process and requirements for academic program proposal and revision. The first step will be communication with CGLs to identify common roadblocks, frustrations, miscommunications or inefficiencies, see if there is a way to smooth out the process.
- 5) Keep antennae out to monitor and potentially share work regarding:
 - a. SUNY Online
 - b. DACA/International Students, particularly in regard to federal immigration policy
 - c. General Education
 - d. Student Retention

Requests to UFS Senators from committee:

- “Building Individualized Course Outcome Models” will be distributed for campuses at the Winter Plenary. Identify campus individuals who may be interested, such as SEM and Academic Advising.
- Note and communicate with advising faculty and staff the cross-registration/withdrawal issue to communicate to students.
- Please send notes to Wendy Gordon (gordonwm@plattsburgh.edu) regarding campus-level frustrations surrounding curriculum, program proposals and revisions, and the ‘ears open’ items in #5.