

University Faculty Senate
Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policies Committee
Wendy Gordon
185th Plenary Virtual Meeting
April 17, 2020

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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Summary of Committee Actions since Winter Plenary

- Examined and discussed “Free Freshman Year” announced in Governor’s State of the State Address, January 17, 2020. Supplemental report submitted.
 - a. Committee continues to be concerned about the motive and educational value of Modern State program.
 - b. The Committee has two lines of thought about the Free Freshman year.
 - i. As explained in the Supplemental report, there is not much new being offered here. No policy changes are necessary to enact it, and it does not seem that it will change any practice around the students (primarily veterans) who will take part.

- ii. The Modern States program is suspect. By providing access to MOOCs it does not provide a good educational experience for students, and encouraging students to utilize this program deprives SUNY of students it needs and can serve better. Endorsing this program is tantamount to declaring classroom-based general education courses to be unnecessary.
- Met via Conference Call, March 12, 2020
 - a. No quorum due to Covid-19 emergency.
- March 26, Chair met with EID and Student Life Committee Chairs to discuss possible resolutions arising from Covid-19 emergency
 - a. When consulted, Undergraduate Committee members did not feel a resolution was advised (or that they had time to participate).

Continuing Action Items

- “Building Individualized Course Outcome Models” finalized. Final draft will be distributed for Plenary. Congratulations and thanks to Ron Sarner for his work on this project.
- Curriculum Mapping Support.
 - a. Request to CAO/CGLs for curriculum mapping documentation revealed very little, especially in instructional materials to explain the purpose, utility, and methods of curriculum mapping.
 - b. There is a Curriculum Mapping presentation on SUNY Blue:
 - i. <https://blue.suny.edu/departments/AcademicAffairs/ProgramReview/Shared%20Documents/CPR%20Meeting%20-%202018-11-20%20-%20Outcome%20Mapping/CPR%20Curriculum%20Mapping%202018.pptx>
 - c. Concern is to communicate the information to faculty/chairs when they need it, especially as faculty move into leadership positions and are not given explicit training in the process.
 - d. Next step: distill the presentation and other available resources into a simple document that can be distributed and archived for faculty use when needed.
- Program Proposal Support.
 - a. Proposal/Resolution that Campus Governance Bodies identify a “campus expert” on program proposals is postponed to a future, less-exciting plenary.
 - b. Identified the “syllabus” element of program proposals as a point of consistent confusion. Plan to produce guidance for Chairs/Faculty on what is expected by SED in a course syllabus and what should be included in Program proposals. Specifically,
 - i. Clarify what a syllabus is and how it differs from a Master Course Outline.
 - ii. Enumerate and explain the information required in a syllabus by SED
 - iii. Clarify best practices for proposals that include classes with multiple versions/instructors
 - iv. Perhaps design a model template that will provide necessary information without interfering with academic freedom.
- Plans for 2020-21
 - a. In-person work session when travel is possible to work on
 - i. Curriculum Mapping Document
 - ii. Program Proposal/Syllabus Document
 - iii. Program Proposal Campus Expert Resolution and Training Session

