

**Academic Council Minutes
8/27/2021**

First Name	Last Name	College/Department
Kori	Bloomquist	CAS
Chen	Chen	CAS
Jimmy	Cheng	CBA
Marguerite	Doman	CBA
Adam	Glover	CAS
Erin	Hamel	COE
Jessie	Hamm	CAS
Hye-Sung	Kim	CAS
Stacy	Martin	COE
Jeff	McEvoy	CVPA
Alice	McLaine	COE
Douglas	Presley	CVPA
Wendy	Sellers	CAS
Mike	Sickels	CAS
Danko	Tarabar	CBA
Cody	Walters	DL
Jesse	Weser	CVPA
Gina	Jones	Rec and Reg
Erin	Emiroglu	Student

Guests: Adrienne McCormick, Jennifer Jordan, Takita Sumter, Beth Costner

I. Minutes from April 2, 2021 meeting—approved unanimously.

II. Remarks from the Chair (Alice McLaine)

Dr. McLaine announced that the Gen Ed Committee is pausing the certification and recertification process for this academic year. As they work on some other things to prepare the GenEd program with SACS accreditation, Academic Council will have work coming out of that.

She also noted that we’re trying to refer to Dr. McCormick as the Chief Academic Officer and use that consistently terminology.

III. Remarks from the Chief Academic Officer (Adrienne McCormick)

Dr. McCormick stated this title (CAO) was for policy making. She hopes to see folks at the Tenure and Promotion workshop this afternoon. They will be going over the timeline and an in-depth look at changes in procedures.

IV. Remarks from the President of the Council of Student Leaders (CSL)(Erin Emiroglu)

Ms. Emiroglu introduced herself. She encouraged folks to come speak to students during CSL meetings and to reach out to her if interested.

V. New Business

A. Full Degree Transfer Proposal (Beth Costner) *Appendix A.*

Dr. Costner is a member of a transfer taskforce which has been reviewing how we can improve options for our transfer students, especially our York Tech students. She noted that the

statement about 65 credits being the maximum amount transferred is an old policy and has been struck from this recommended transfer policy.

She talked through the requirements and asked if there were questions.

Dr. McCormick stated that she is the one who put this task force together and is very supportive of this document. She asked about the C- or better being parallel to other universities.

Dr. Costner said that this was our existing policy and the group did not look at other school's policies.

Dr. McCormick remarked that the point of all this is not to have a higher bar. If our own students can count a "D" why can't a transfer student? She would like some follow-up on this. Regarding HXCT, she asked if there were possibilities of York Tech students take this while they're at YT?

Dr. Costner said that they are examining possibilities of taking courses at Winthrop while at YT. There are current hiccups with Financial Aid. This is the first level of approval, and then the group would look at cross-registrations or see if YT can offer the course, but we need to have enough students at YT to make the course an option there.

Mr. Drueke stated that the reason they kept the HXCT course in the proposal was that it was a 300-level course that's designated rather than the student having to find another 300-level course to take. Not all programs have 40 hours of upper-level coursework.

Dr. McCormick said if we can package it that way, she's all for it. The concern is that if we say the Gen Ed is done but you have these baccalaureate requirements.

Mr. Drueke said that YT had committed to teaching Reach Act compliance courses [even though associate degrees do not require this].

Dr. McCormick noted that we do need to update language from Constitution requirement to Founding Documents.

Dr. Costner said she would look into the C- grade requirement and if needed, propose an amendment.

Dr. McCormick stated that she is not trying to negate academic rigor at Winthrop. We have a requirement that students have a 2.0, but when we put additional exclusions on transfer students, we raise barriers.

Dr. Costner noted that we would need a bigger policy change if we change this policy.

Mr. Drueke pointed out that there are upper level courses that do require a C- or better in pre-requisites.

B. Academic Forgiveness Expansion Proposal (Beth Costner) Appendix B

Dr. Costner talked about the current policy. They discovered in talking with Admissions that we'll have a transfer student with an old transcript in which we use to determine admission. She stated that they would like to extend the academic forgiveness to transfer students. She asked if there were any questions.

Dr. McLaine stated it seemed logical that we would to allow this as it is currently a barrier.

Dr. Costner said that Jamie Cooper and Tim Drueke were also on this committee and people could reach out to them.

Dr. McLaine said we would vote on these policies at the next meeting.

C. General Education Work to be Completed (Wendy Sellers)

Dr. Sellers thought it was important that Academic Council be aware of what's coming down the pike. She spoke to the assessment of Gen Ed.

GENERAL EDUCATION-TALKING POINTS

- Past Frontiers
- Tasks for Academic Council: 2021-2022
- Assessment Plan-Previous Phases
- Assessment Plan-New Phases

One of the first things Dr. Sellers did was meet with Dr. Schram-Possinger about assessment of Gen Ed and learned that it was very messy and complicated. She wants to get this cleaned up. She shared upcoming tasks:

GENERAL EDUCATION TASKS: 2021-2022

Fall 2021

- Assessment Plan
- Mission Statement
- ULCs

Spring 2022

- SLOs
- Rubrics
- Course Inclusion Process

The first big task is to create an assessment plan.

ASSESSMENT PLAN-PREVIOUS PHASES

Phase	Component	Academic Year
Phase 1: Assessment of the Core as a Unit	Writing and Critical Thinking	2017-2018
		2018-2019
		2019-2020
Phase 2: Assessment of all Core Courses	ACAD 101	2020-2021
	WRIT 101	
	HMPX 102	
	CRTW 201	

ASSESSMENT PLAN-NEW PHASES

Phase	Component	Academic Year
Phase 3a: Comprehensive Assessment of Gen Ed Program	ACAD 101	2021-2022
	Oral Communication	
	Founding Documents	
	Quantitative	
Phase 3b: Comprehensive Assessment of Gen Ed Program	Global Perspectives	2022-2023
	Historical Perspectives	
	Social Sciences	
	Intensive Writing	
Phase 3c: Comprehensive Assessment of Gen Ed Program	Technology	2023-2024
	Physical Activity	
	Humanities and Arts	
	Natural Sciences	
	Core (Writing and Critical Thinking & ACAD)	

The Gen Ed Assessment committee has approved this new plan. Dr. Sellers would like AC to vote on this plan at the next meeting.

Dr. McLaine asked about the 3-year rotation and asked if this was the grouping for recertifications also.

Dr. Sellers said she hoped this would be the case. Dr. McLaine mentioned that the third year was heavy and encouraged a balance.

VI. Announcements and Adjournment

No announcements. Meeting adjourned at 2:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Jones, Secretary

Full Degree Transfer Proposal

A taskforce examining transfer processes formally began work in the 2020-2021 academic year. The goal of the group was to examine work that had already been started with our closest technical school partner York Technical College (YTC). However, this work has the potential to benefit transfer students from a variety of SC two-year institutions. The group was comprised of Winthrop and YTC faculty, staff, and administrators.

The group collectively accomplished a number of first level steps in making Winthrop more transfer friendly while making more transparent the opportunities that exist under current policies and expectations. Examining <https://www.winthrop.edu/admissions/transfer/pathways.aspx> will allow for an exploration of pathways into a variety of majors, co-branding of our work, and general information on transfer. Although the pathways are a significant step forward with the possibility of further expansion, one of the most valuable aspects of the work was the space to share across institutions processes, needs, ideas, and goals.

With the current (and future) pathways as an important first step, the subcommittee on policies presents a proposal for a Full Degree Transfer Policy. Such a policy is not unique in high education, but allows students holding an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree the ability to waive the vast majority of requirements in the general education program without the need for a course-by-course comparison.

Full Degree Transfer Policy

General Education coursework provides opportunities for students to use their talents to achieve excellence; take responsibility for the integrity and quality of their own work; and engage in meaningful practices that prepare them to fulfill their obligations as students in an academic community and as responsible global and local citizens. Transfer students with an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree from an accredited two-year institution in South Carolina are eligible to automatically waive most requirements of the General Education Program at Winthrop University. There a small number of Winthrop specific experiences and state specific guidelines that may or may not be included in the associate degree, but are required to earn a Winthrop degree.

General expectations for the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree from an accredited two-year institution in South Carolina.

- ~~1. Degree must include at least 60 credits of degree-level coursework. Please note that students may transfer a maximum of 65 credits from a two-year institution.~~
2. Degree must include at least 6 credits of composition or writing intensive coursework (typically ENG 101 and ENG 102).

Winthrop specific requirements that may or may not be fulfilled in the full-degree transfer.

3. All graduates must earn credit for a course that meets the SC State Constitution Requirement outlined in the REACH Act. This may occur through transfer credits or an approved Winthrop course (example courses include HIS 201, HIS 202, and PSC 201)
4. A third writing intensive course for the core-writing requirement at Winthrop. Most transfer students will meet this expectation through HXCT 301: Human Experience and Critical Thinking taken while in residence at Winthrop.
5. Only courses in which a grade of C- or better was earned will count toward the total number of hours required for graduation from Winthrop.
6. All degree specific requirements must be met regardless of connection to general education.

Academic Forgiveness Policy

At the time of admission or readmission to Winthrop, a student may choose to evoke the “academic forgiveness policy” for coursework taken five or more years previously at Winthrop or another institution [a.k.a. exempted coursework].

Under this policy the following allowances are made for exempted coursework.

- The GPA required for admission to the institution will exclude exempted coursework. In other words, performance five or more years before application to Winthrop can be removed from the calculation of the admission GPA if such coursework is negatively impacting the applicant’s overall GPA.
- Exempted coursework is treated as transfer credit for purposes of granting credit toward graduation and degree requirements. As with all transfer credit, the exempted coursework is not used in computing the student’s Winthrop grade-point average. However, all exempted coursework and the grades earned remain on the student’s official transcript and are counted in computing eligibility for academic honors.

Limitations related to this policy include:

- This policy does not supersede degree specific requirements, such as, considerations associated with the age of coursework and requirements per regulations set by the program or external body.
- Students seeking financial aid must meet all stated guidelines and policies, such as but not limited to, degree progress and policies on repeated coursework.

- Repeat exemptions used during the exempted coursework will be used to determine available remaining exemptions.

The student must exercise or waive the “academic forgiveness” option by the end of the first week of the second semester in which they were admitted or readmitted to Winthrop University. Students who have already utilized all their repeat exemptions do not receive additional repeat exemptions.