

# Winthrop University – Academic Council

Met Friday, September 24, 2021 2:00pm via Zoom

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

\*absent

Guests: Beth Costner, Jennifer Jordan, Jeff Bellantoni, Jamie Cooper, Tim Druke, Adrienne McCormick, P.N. Saksena, Takita Sumter, Jennie Rakestraw

- I. **Minutes from August 27, 2021 meeting** – approved in advance via email
- II. **Remarks from the Chair (Alice McLaine)**  
Dr. McLaine reminded folks of where the minutes and agendas are on the R&R website and what types of curriculum AC votes on. The Gen Ed committees have worked hard and she appreciates their work.
- III. **Remarks from the Provost and Executive vice President for Academic Affairs (Adrienne McCormick) [Appendix I](#)**  
Academic Master Plan update.  
Trying to rebuild budget plan.  
ACUE training (Association of College and University Educators)
- IV. ~~Remarks from the President of the Council of Student Leaders (Erin Emiroglu)~~
- V. **Reports from Standing Committees**
  - A. Committee on University Curriculum (Stacy Martin)
    1. September 17, 2021 Meeting
      - a. BS in Business Administration/Economics modification  
[Unanimously approved.](#)

## B. General Education Assessment Committee (Wendy Sellers)

Dr. Sellers reminded everyone that recertifications and certifications are on pause this academic year.

1. Proposal of a three-year assessment cycle of GE Program  
Dr. Sellers indicated that we've done a good job assessing the core (ACAD 101, WRIT 101, HMXP 102, and CRTW 201); however, we need to assess ALL of the components. We need to demonstrate to SACS that we have a plan.  
[Unanimously approved.](#)
2. Proposal of components to be assessed in AY 2021-2022  
ACAD has not been a part of the assessment process in the past, and that is why it is first in the list of assessment this year.  
The other components are "low hanging fruit"—starting smaller was a better plan.  
Dr. McLaine asked if this 3-yr rotation continue until we vote to change it. The number of courses involved would create a big workload for the committees.  
Dr. Sellers responded that she had some ideas on how to streamline the process. With assessment, we don't have to assess every section of every course. She wants this process to be easy.  
[Unanimously approved.](#)
3. Proposal of components to be assessed in AY 2022-2023  
[Unanimously approved.](#)
4. Proposal of components to be assessed in AY 2023-2024  
Dr. McLaine clarified ACAD and also asked about HXCT for transfer students.  
Dr. Sellers replied that HXCT would be assessed as part of the core.  
Dr. McLaine commented about the huge number of courses in Humanities.  
Dr. Sellers said there might be some ways to look at the courses in chunks to make it more manageable.  
Dr. Hamm asked why we didn't use a four-year cycle?  
Dr. Sellers said the guidance she got from people experienced with SACS accreditation was that three years was best.  
Dr. McCormick stated that she imagined we will get feedback on this place from our external reviewers this year too. She said, "Sometimes SACSCOC feedback does give us suggestions on how to make assessment more sustainable. The plans are ultimately ours, but the cycle is designed to give feedback within the 4-year window of the average students' time here."  
[Unanimously approved.](#)

## C. General Education Curriculum Committee (Danko Tarabar)

The charge of the committee this year is to assist the assessment committee. One of the tasks is to align Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs).

1. Proposal of revisions to Founding Documents (formerly Constitution requirement) SLOs to align with the SC Reach Act (document included) for assessment in AY 2021-2022  
Dr. McCormick asked about the learning outcome of "students will discuss..." since that is hard to assess.  
Dr. Sellers said the committee just took the SLO from the current documents and incorporated the new technical language of the law.

Dr. McCormick asked for a friendly amendment.

Dr. Tarabar replaced “discuss” in the second bullet with language in the first bullet to read, “Students will identify the social and political contexts...”

[Unanimously approved.](#)

2. Proposal of assessment of Oral Communication using the first two approved SLOs in AY 2021-2022

[Unanimously approved.](#)

3. Proposal to align each GE Component to a common University Level Competencies.

Dr. Sellers noted that the ULCs are not just tied to Gen Ed. The way the catalog reads, though, there are parentheses to show which ULCs are met with specific Gen Eds. Some only meet one of those, some meet more. Components should be tied to ULCs so that they are coherent.

Dr. McCormick said there is a typo: should be *common* ULC for assessment, not SLO. (P. 7 of supporting documents)

- Nothing about this proposal in any way means that courses cannot be tied to additional ULCs. This proposal simply aligns each component to a common SLO for assessment.

[Unanimously approved.](#)

4. Proposal of components Writing/Critical Thinking, Technology, Quantitative Skills, and Natural Sciences to align with ULC 1

[Unanimously approved.](#)

5. Proposal of components Writing/Critical Thinking, ACAD 101, Founding Documents, and Physical Activity to align with ULC 2

Dr. Sellers said this ULC needs a bit of attention in the future. It has the least amount of courses that align with it. She thought we should revise language so that it's more inclusive.

Dr. McLaine said it would be hard to measure.

[Unanimously approved.](#)

6. Proposal of components Writing/Critical Thinking, Global Perspectives, Historical Perspectives, and Social Science to align with ULC 3

[Unanimously approved.](#)

7. Proposal of components Writing/Critical Thinking, Oral Communication, Intensive Writing, and Humanities/Arts to align with ULC 4

Dr. Sellers said this was another ULC that needed a lot of attention, particularly in making the language more inclusive.

[Unanimously approved.](#)

## VI. Old / Ongoing Business

### A. Full Degree Transfer Proposal (Beth Costner)

Regarding the C- grade, Dr. Costner said this was common across other SC schools (C for those who don't have =/-).

Dr. Hamm asked about HXCT and if there was another option for students.

Dr. Costner said it would be possible to have a transfer course.

Dr. Kim asked if HXCT was being required of students who have the associate's degree.

Dr. Costner stated that some students would come in with two courses and HXCT would meet the two-course requirement here [HMXP 102 and CRTW 201].

Dr. McCormick said it's not unusual for schools to have additional courses for transfer students.

Dr. Kim said she thought that students with an associates got a "stamp" that their gen ed was done. She also asked if there was evidence that transfer students see HXCT as a hurdle for them.

Dr. Costner noted that HXCT has only been offered for a year and we don't have the data to assess. The bigger issue for the committee was that we expect students to have three core writing courses per our Gen Ed. Typically transfer students will only have two, so that's central to what we do. We're asking TR students to do equivalent, not more, than our other students.

Mr. Drueke noted the 300-level as to help with the above 299 hours requirement.

Writing intensive courses in the major often have a pre-req of CRTW.

Dr. Bloomquist expressed concern about HXCT and would like to see it removed from the proposal as it presents as an additional barrier for transfer students.

She was reporting this information as a representative of the College of Arts and Sciences on AC.

Dr. Costner said that if you looked at other institutions, most have two writing courses in their core. Winthrop is not set up that way. The Committee thought it was important to make the three-course sequence a requirement for everyone.

Dr. Kim said she thought our Gen Ed writing was great and everyone should meet it, but she does hear concern from other colleagues about it being a hurdle. We need to show the benefits of this third course.

Dr. Costner noted that in the Transfer pathways, students would have four semesters at YT and four at WU. She noted in her college, they were saving some majors an additional two courses.

Dr. Cooper explained that there was an institutional assessment committee formed in 2018 to assess HMXP/CRTW and that assessment committee found those courses were not a barrier for transfer. Nonetheless, HXCT was created as a way to help streamline degree requirements for transfer students and provide a pathway for those students to achieve the same learning outcomes and develop the same competencies in critical reading and critical thinking as native Winthrop students.

Dr. Sickels said that most faculty in the CAS agree with the extra writing requirement.

Dr. Costner investigated further on other institutions for TR pathways and it isn't always spelled out well.

Dr. McCormick said this was a healthy conversation. These courses are an important part of who we are. Transfers are on the public (South Carolina) agenda now. We may find ourselves with some state level requirements.

Mr. Drueke noted that the Constitution requirement reference should be changed to

Founding Documents. (p. 19 of supporting docs)

Dr. Stacy Martin made the motion to approve with the correction.

Doug Pressley seconded.

Unanimously approved.

B. Academic Forgiveness Expansion Proposal (Beth Costner)

There was no discussion.

Dr. Adam Glover made the motion and Dr. Kim seconded.

Unanimously approved.

Dr. Costner said she and Tim had met with Student Financial Services to discuss cross-registration with students paying YT tuition rate.

Mr. Druke mentioned that some intro major courses would be good examples of courses that students would take before they actually transferred.

VII. **New Business**

Mr. Druke said we need a formal vote to change the Constitution Requirement to Founding Documents.

Dr. Glover made the motion. Dr. Weser seconded.

No discussion. Motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. **Announcements and Adjournment**

Dr. Tarabar stated that SCST 391 was recertified by the Gen Ed Committee. The course was submitted before the pause so it was allowed to go forward.

Adjourned at 3:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Jones, Secretary



## Academic Council

September 24, 2021

### Academic Master Plan update:

- 1) Program Profile review and health metrics
  - Work continues as part of budget forecasting effort
- 2) New Program Outlook: Health/Design/Innovation
  - DPU / health programs ad-hoc committee
  - Normal department curricular innovations
- 3) Transfer pathways launched:
  - Policy barriers work continues
- 4) Student Success Ecosystem:
  - QEP proposal on career readiness
  - IT/AA infrastructure team
  - Gen Ed / ULC assessment and alignment work
  - ACUE training modules through CPE for faculty