

Winthrop University – Academic Council

Friday, November 11, 2022 2:00pm

West 118

Agenda

- I. Minutes from September 23, 2022 meeting approved via email
- II. Remarks from the Chair (Alice McLaine)
- III. Remarks from the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (Peter Judge)
- IV. Remarks from the President of the Council of Student Leaders (Miguel Caldwell)
- V. New Business
 - A. Curriculum Action
 1. New Program: Minor in Global Arts and Visual Culture
 - B. Cultural Events Committee Proposal Regarding Virtual Events
 - C. General Education Assessment Committee Proposal
 - D. General Education Curriculum Committee Report
- VI. Adjournments

Proposal to Allow Virtual Cultural Events for Fall 2022-Fall 2024

Dear Academic Council:

My colleagues and I on the Cultural Events Committee would like to recommend to the Academic Council that we continue to allow Virtual Cultural Events for the next two academic years, at which point, these committees can review this issue again.

For context, we have been approving virtual cultural events since the beginning of the pandemic. In the interim during this semester (Fall 2022), we have received no word from a larger body about a specific policy on virtual cultural events, so we submit this proposal to you with the hope that both faculty and committee can have more clarity on this issue.

It is our belief that continuing to allow virtual cultural events each semester grants our students greater access to a diversity of ideas and cultures that keeps with the spirit of the cultural event requirement. This would give student athletes, students studying abroad, and students who may be taking courses fully online in other cities, especially, more opportunities to satisfy their cultural event requirements. In addition, it would also provide departments who may be facing funding issues the opportunity to virtually host lecturers/academics/authors/artists who might otherwise be unavailable for travel to our Rock Hill campus.

We have a few recommendations for your consideration:

-We recommend that the onus for regulating student attendance and participation going forward would continue to rest with the faculty moderator of said cultural event (this has been the standard practice. The moderator usually employs the help of a “camera monitor” to help with this). The faculty moderator must also submit the zoom attendance report after their event (this has also been standard practice).

Two New Recommendations:

-We recommend limiting the number of allowed virtual cultural events to **12 maximum per semester**. Since the committee typically reviews 50-75 cultural event submissions per semester, this would allow space for approximately 25% of those events to be held virtually. It is our hope that the majority of our cultural events in the post-Covid world continue to remain face-to-face on campus, and we believe that instituting a ceiling would ensure this, while at the same time, still allowing multi-modal access for those who need it. If the cap were met early in the semester, we recommend an appeal process through the provost’s office, similar to the appeals process for denied cultural events. (For reference, at this point in the semester, we’ve only received and approved approximately five virtual cultural event requests, so we feel that 12 is a solid number).

-We recommend including a new portion of the cultural event application for virtual cultural event applications specifically with the question, “Why must this event be in a virtual format and not in person?” We believe this question will ensure better communication and feedback between committee and faculty submitters going forward.

Thank you for your consideration. I speak for the entire committee when we are so grateful for the work you did with the changes to our guidelines earlier this semester.

My Very Best!

Dr. Ephraim Scott Sommers
Cultural Event Committee Chair
Associate Professor of English
Winthrop University

Proposal from the GE Assessment Committee):

Motion: Remove SLO #3 from the Global Perspectives component of General Education.

- Rationale:
- Somewhere back in the day (long, long ago), the language regarding this particular SLO shifted from asking instructors to provide a “list of ‘global events’ that are available to students during the semester” to asking students to “identify relevant connections between course material and a global cultural event.”
- The magical shift in this language was never actually approved through faculty governance.
- Since it was never approved by faculty governance, then the approved “tweaks” made to this particular SLO last year were actually tweaks made to a phantom SLO.