

Winthrop University – Academic Council

Friday, September 23, 2022

2:00pm West 118

Minutes

First Name	Last Name	College/Department
Zachary	Abernathy	CAS
Leslie	Bickford*	CAS
Kori	Bloomquist**	CAS
Kelly	Costner	COE
Marguerite	Doman	CBA
Adam	Glover	CAS
Jessie	Hamm	CAS
Sherry	Hoyle*	COE
Jeff	McEvoy	CVPA
Alice	McLaine	COE
Jeremy	Mims*	CVPA
Douglas	Presley	CVPA
Mike	Sickels	CAS
Michael	Whitney	CBA
Cody	Walters	Dacus Library
Gina	Jones	Rec and Reg
Miguel	Caldwell*	Council of Student Leaders

*absent

**on sabbatical

Guests: Michael Szeman, Ephraim Sommers, Takita Sumter, Jennifer Jordan

I. Minutes from August 26, 2022 meeting approved via email.

II. Remarks from the Chair (Alice McLaine)

Dr. McLaine noted that this is probably the first time we haven't had curriculum to vote on but reminded members that they can still review items in the Curriculum Action System (CAS).

III. Remarks from the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (Peter Judge)

Dr. Judge thanked everyone for their work. He said he was just here to listen to the conversation today.

IV. Remarks from the President of the Council of Student Leaders (Miguel Caldwell)

Mr. Caldwell was unable to attend

V. Old Business

A. *Cultural Events Committee Update - Recommendation to revise cultural events guidelines (Appendix I)*

Committee Members

CAS –Ephraim Sommers (chair)

CAS –Scott Huffmon

CBA –Nicholas Moellman

COE –TBA

CVPA –Stacey Davidson

CVPA –Robert Wildman

Student –TBA

Student –TBA

UC –Leigh Poole (ex officio)

Rec and Reg –Michael Szeman (ex officio)

Michael Szeman revised the proposal to show the changes. The clarifications being proposed are not changes in intent or the guidelines themselves but just making things clearer. There is a little new language, such as career exploration events not being approved.

Dr. McLaine had asked Mr. Szeman to send a list of events that were approved and denied. As she had looked at them, she compared those with similar to topics. Often the denied ones had proposals which were not very thorough. Submissions were sometimes at the last minute and not enough time for feedback and clarification before the event was held. Sometimes it had to do with lack of guidance from faculty. There is an appeal process that goes to the Provost's office (Tim Druke).

Three emails came in right before this meeting from Michael Lipscomb, Michael Matthews, and Jennifer Disney.

Dr. Ephraim Sommers offered some context. During COVID, there was a fear that we weren't going to have enough CEs, and some things were allowed that would have not normally been allowed. After about six months, the committee went back to the guidelines. Events that had been approved before were now being denied and some feathers were ruffled. He indicated that they were paying more attention to the guidelines.

Dr. Takita Sumter asked if there were enough questions and prompts for the event proposals that helps folks make sure they are thorough. Dr. Sommers said yes, but they were considering moving the guidelines to the top of the page.

Dr. Jessica Hamm asked about the definition of the Cultural Event. Dr. Sommers wasn't sure the committee should define what a CE is--that is a WU faculty role. Dr. McLaine pulled up the approval criteria website which stated what a CE is. She said this (defining CEs) should go to Faculty Conference.

Dr. Michael Whitney referenced Dr. Michael Matthews' email about health and safety seminars, specifically mental health. Dr. Sommers had let some of these through if they related to culture. Mr. Szeman said there was one that spoke to broader social issues. Dr. Sommers spoke of another about HIV-AIDS in Africa. The issue surrounded it being a Public Service Announcement (PSA).

Dr. McLaine did respond to Dr. Matthews' email and asked if his proposal was more than a PSA.

Dr. Doman quoted from the guideline proposal regarding science, technology and asked if this meant that we couldn't have Bill Gates here.

Dr. Mike Sickels remarked that last year they had some science research regarding COVID and social aspects but said he probably didn't do a good job justifying it.

Dr. Whitney asked about whether a student needs faculty approval to attend off-campus events. Dr. Sommers said no, that was a petition.

Dr. Sommers wants to make sure that when students are leading events, that there is faculty oversight.

Dr. Doman asked about private events. Dr. Sommers said that CEs have to be open for all students. (Private off campus events would be handled through petitions.)

Dr. Judge talked about faculty-led study abroad. Faculty would apply to have CE events for this.

Dr. Jennifer Jordan mentioned the guidelines not mirroring the application, but Mr. Szeman said the guidelines were going to be included in the application.

Dr. McLaine asked about defining culture.

Dr. Jordan said that folks seem to be confused about why their event was denied and this should be cleared up.

Dr. Sommers said it's mostly about the argument (justification). Dr. McLaine said people submitting proposals need to think it through more thoroughly.

Dr. Sommers pointed out that it was not that these events are not valuable. The committee is making decisions based on the guidelines.

Dr. Hamm asked "When it's denied, is there a reason given?"

Dr. Sommers said if it's right on the edge that they'll go back to the person and ask for a little more.

Dr. Sumter asked inquired about the deadline. Dr. Sommers spoke about missed deadlines—the committee needs to have time to look over.

Mr. Szeman pointed out that the proposal page asks for 4-6 weeks for review.

Dr. Sommers said they try to be flexible.

Dr. Kelly Costner asked about the review cycle. Mr. Szeman talked about those that need revision and re-review. These are the ones that need more time so they can communicate with the person proposing the CE.

Dr. Doug Presley asked if the timeline should be revised. Dr. Sommers stated that it was a recommended deadline.

Dr. McLaine asked if the proposal can be re-worded by the time Faculty Conference meets next week. She asked if the group wanted to see the final edits before submitting to FC. Members indicated yes.

Dr. Costner said we have more "nots" and asked if we could make it a positive statement.

Dr. Zach Abernathy said it's helpful to have examples of events that are good and not good. Dr. Doman concurred. (Examples are given on the CE website.)

Dr. Sommers pointed to the area under lectures: events covering topics in business. This should be placed in broader social context. And remove "generate new ideas" as it's covered in the previous bullet.

Dr. McLaine said the website will flow better than what this document shows. She noted the approval criteria starts with positive information. Dr. Doman suggested the not-approved section be at the bottom.

Dr. Sommers indicated his concern with the last Faculty Conference was that this was a surprise. Dr. Jordan said she'd like to send it out today. She said the surprise wasn't this document but that folks were talking about rejected events. She asked if it would be helpful to have an overview. Dr. McLaine stated that she will give an overview of the discussion today. Dr. Sommers and Mr. Szeman will be there for questions.

Dr. Sickels said the loudest voices were those whose events were not approved, and suggested that the committee provide data about why things were not approved. Dr. Sommers said he would do that.

Dr. Hamm asked about the sentence regarding "significant cultural component." On the bottom of page 1. This wording was changed to "a significant portion of the event must have a cultural component."

Dr. Costner asked what is "significant?" Dr. McLaine stated that at some point we have to trust the event organizers.

Mr. Szeman referenced Dr. Lipscomb's email about verbiage of "ideally" rather than "usually" regarding topics with potentially controversial subjects. This was updated.

Dr. McLaine said that since the CE Committee was a standing committee, we did not need a motion for the proposal. She asked for further discussion. There was none. A vote was called. **The proposal unanimously passed.**

VI. New Business--none

VII. Adjournment

Dr. McLaine adjourned the group at 3:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Jones, Secretary

Proposal: Revisions to the Guidelines for Cultural Events

To help clarify expectations for events, the Cultural Events Committee proposes the following revisions to the guidelines for events. NOTE: ALL ADDITIONS IN RED. MOVED INFORMATION IN YELLOW

Guidelines for Cultural Events

The Faculty Conference defined Cultural Events as "approved events chosen from areas such as plays, films, art exhibitions, dance, and musical performances, or from lectures of general appeal." Over the years, the Cultural Events Committee developed a set of guidelines to assist in making decisions and interpreting this definition.

In general, the following types of events will not be approved:

- Public Service Announcements as lectures or presentations (events that serve more to inform the public about safety or health concerns, etc.) will, in general, not receive cultural event credit. **Public service announcements or general information sessions.**
- Traditional career and vocational education events (e.g., career fairs/networking events, resume workshops, etc.).**
- Workshops and training sessions for everyday life skills (e.g., personal financing, time management, etc.).**
- In general, programs and performances by, or specifically designed for, children (below college age) will not be approved as Cultural Events. Programs designed specifically for children. Events must be age-appropriate for college students.**
- On-campus Cultural Events must be open to all students. Private on-campus events. Events which take place on campus (including the Winthrop Coliseum) must be open to all students.**
- Events structured in such ways that prevent attendance from being adequately monitored (e.g., tabling events and halftime shows at sporting events) will not be approved. Outdoor events must take place in an easily monitored area such as the Winthrop Amphitheatre.**
- Marketing events or events that serve primarily to promote a good or service (e.g., trade shows, fundraisers, political rallies, etc.).**

Approved events will meet the following criteria and expectations:

1. A significant portion of the event must have a cultural component as defined by the guidelines.
2. All events selected as approved Cultural Events should be under the sponsorship of a faculty member, administrator, or a related organization(s) (e.g., student organization, university department, etc.). **Events must be sponsored by a Winthrop faculty/staff member, campus administrator, college or department. The event sponsor will assume the following responsibilities.**
3. Participants in events must demonstrate a fundamental respect for all persons in accordance with the Code of Conduct and the University's mission statement.
4. Event organizers are encouraged to contact [Counseling Services](#) when planning an event that may be emotionally triggering to those in attendance. The Cultural Events Committee may at its discretion require the event organizer to secure a floater counselor prior to approving such events.
5. Approved events will be selected from one of the four categories:

Lectures, Panel Discussions, and Forums

Lectures, panel discussions, and forums of general appeal are selected based on the speaker's ability to generate new ideas and discussion on topics of broad significance. Lectures that receive approval will have the following attributes:

- A speaker with credentials, reputation, and expertise in the subject area **relevant experience and credentials. Speakers will typically have an advanced degree (e.g., an M.A. or Ph.D.) in an appropriate field, though extensive experience and reputation may substitute for formal credentials (a strong case must be made for this exception). Students may co-present if their level of involvement amounts to no more than 50% of the presentation.**
- A subject of importance and/or uniqueness (e.g., new ideas). **For example Public Service Announcements as lectures or presentations (events that serve more to inform the public about safety or health concerns, etc.) will, in general, not receive cultural event credit.**
- A topic that relates to culture, **the humanities**, the arts, **society and culture**, and world culture(s), and societal concerns. Events covering topics in business, sports, science, and mathematics should be placed in a broader social, **artistic**, or cultural context.
- Topics in potentially controversial subject areas (e.g., politics, religion, etc.) must allow for a discussion of a broad spectrum of views. These discussions should have guidance of **be moderated by** a Winthrop faculty or staff member with demonstrable expertise in the area. **These events**

will ideally (though not always) feature a panel of two or more qualified speakers with diverse perspectives. In general, programs and performances by, or specifically designed for, children (below college age) will not be approved as Cultural Events. All events selected as approved Cultural Events should be under the sponsorship of a faculty member, administrator, or a related organization(s) (e.g., student organization, university department, etc.).

- Lectures and discussions should last reasonably long enough for deep learning to occur. These events will typically last at least one hour with a minimum of 15 minutes for audience Q&A.

Films and Readings

- **Films** must meet the following criteria:
 1. They must feature a presentation and/or discussion led by a qualified individual with expertise in the subject matter of the film. Films that are readily accessible to students (i.e., recent mainstream films) must also qualify under the category of lectures, panel discussions, and forums.
 2. Foreign films presented in a foreign language.
 1. They must be viewings of culturally, historically, or artistically significant films, or foreign language films. Films that are readily available to students (e.g., mainstream films) must also qualify under the category of Lectures, Panel Discussions, and Forums).
 2. They must be preceded by a robust 30-minute lecture or followed by a structured 30-minute Q&A and discussion on the subject matter of the film led by a qualified speaker.

NOTE: For information on copyright and the proper use of digital media, visit the [Dacus Library website](#).

- **Readings** of poetry and fiction will be selected based on the reader and/or writer's reputation and credentials. Readings by individual students must be under the faculty direction or have guidance from a faculty member with expertise in the subject area.

Music, Theatre, and Dance Performances

- Performances in music, theatre and dance will be selected based on their ability to broaden a students' appreciation for the performing arts. The reputation and qualifications of the performer(s) will be taken into consideration. Performances in music will be selected on their ability to broaden a student's musical experience. Performances in musical genres

which are part of current popular culture will not be selected unless they qualify under the Lectures, Panel Discussions, and Forums category.

- Performances by individuals or groups of students should be under faculty direction or supervision and have guidance from a faculty with expertise in the area.
- Performances in music, theatre and dance sponsored by the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) are approved through the CVPA Dean's Office (for more information regarding approval of CVPA events, contact gradl@winthrop.edu).

Guided Discussions of Exhibitions of Visual Art or Material Culture

- Guided discussions of exhibitions of visual art or material culture will be selected based on the reputation and credentials of the artist(s) and/or the individual leading the discussion.
- Exhibitions of visual art by individual students or those sponsored by student organizations should be under faculty direction or have guidance from a faculty member with expertise in that area.
- Guided discussions of exhibitions of visual art or material culture sponsored by the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) are approved through the CVPA Dean's Office (for more information regarding approval of CVPA events, contact gradl@winthrop.edu).

General Guidelines for Events

Location of Events

- Cultural Events typically take place on campus in such instances, the event organizer and sponsor are responsible for making a space request through the campus space reservation system. The Cultural Events Coordinator schedules the Cultural Event Monitors to be on location before and after each approved Cultural Event to scan the students in and out of the events so that they may receive credit. **On campus Cultural Events must be open to all students.**
- Events may take place off campus; however, in such instances the sponsor of the event will be responsible for making a record of all students in attendance in accordance with the attendance policy and guidelines for credit and submitting the attendance list to the Cultural Events Coordinator in order for students to receive credit.

Setup of Events

Attendance at on-campus events is tracked by the Cultural Event Monitors.

Events structured in such ways that prevent attendance from being adequately monitored (e.g., tabling events and halftime shows at sporting events) will not be approved. Outdoor events must take place in an easily monitored area such as the Winthrop Amphitheatre.

Events on Sensitive Topics or Difficult Subject Matter

Event organizers are encouraged to contact [Counseling Services](#) when planning an event that may be emotionally triggering to those in attendance. The Cultural Events Committee may at its discretion require the event organizer to secure a floater counselor before the event is approved. In such cases, the event organizer will be responsible for notifying the committee once a counselor is secured.