

Winthrop University – Academic Council

Friday, September 22, 2023, 2:00pm

Thurmond 413

Minutes

First Name	Last Name	College/Department
Zachary	Abernathy	CAS
Fatima	Amir	CAS
Leslie	Bickford	CAS
Kori	Bloomquist	CAS
Kelly	Costner	COE
Adam	Glover	CAS
Sherry	Hoyle	COE
Michael	Matthews	COB
Jeffrey	McEvoy	CVPA
Douglas	Presley	CVPA
Mike	Sickels	CAS
Joy	Stapleton	COE
William Cody	Walters	Dacus Library
Michael	Whitney	COB
Brent	Woodfill	CAS
Kristen	Wonderlich	CVPA
Esther	Ekundayo	Chair, Council of Student Leaders
Gina	Jones	Registrar/Secretary

Guests: Peter Judge, Meg Webber, Kelly Richardson, Leigh Poole

- I. **Approval of minutes** from the April 07, 2023 meeting (approved via email)
- II. **Remarks from the Chair** (Michael Whitney)

Dr. Whitney asked members to introduce themselves and thanked everyone for working on AC this year. He reviewed what we'd responsible for: Curriculum and Gen Ed are standard. He mentioned Council of Student leaders having a voice to share their concerns. He expects members to look at curriculum. He wants to make sure everything is copasetic with our departments and stressed that we are our college's representative.
- III. **Remarks from the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs** (Peter Judge)

Dr. Judge thanked everyone for their membership and said this was important work. He hoped everyone was able to go to the Strategic Town Hall. He indicated that it was fairly safe to assume that this is going to call for a review for our Gen Ed program. It's been 20 years since the current Gen Ed was fully reviewed. It's not an easy task but something we need to focus on. We need to be the ones to drive this. On August 14, he asked deans, department chairs, and program directors to talk about priorities and look at the Gen Ed program. They divided up and looked at pros and cons, and were asked if each group had a charge to present to a committee, what would it be?

Among the perceived "Pros":

 - A strong core as a foundation that emphasizes critical thinking skills in students for which Winthrop is nationally recognized
 - Provides a broad liberal arts education
 - Students can expand their experience outside their major area
 - Students have a common experience across the university

Among the perceived “Cons”:

- Program is complex and often difficult to understand and navigate, even for faculty
- Too many courses included and some not always taught
- There are some barriers to transfer students
- Bottlenecks and barriers to graduation
- Skills (e.g. writing) are often not carried through
- Some desirable skills missing (e.g., financial literacy)

Table groups were also asked to craft what charge they might give a task force. Various suggestions were made.

Dr. Webber talked about working with new faculty who are introduced to the curriculum. She said it seems that some things could be streamlined. She invited members to attend a curriculum training session on October 10 provided by Student Services Directors as they prepare for advising.

Dr. Judge noted that in his former department, students did not realize that they were learning the specific skills that Gen Ed was teaching.

He noted that we have a few courses that have pre-reqs that already fill the [Gen Ed] requirement. Financial literacy came up a few times in this exercise.

Dr. Whitney asked about the role of Academic Council. Dr. Judge saw this as a collaboration. This is an appropriate place to begin the process—maybe a sub-committee.

He asked this group to take on this task. It may take more than a year. With the last “overhaul”, he felt like there were some things left unfinished.

IV. Remarks from the President of the Council of Student Leaders (CSL) (Esther Ekundayo)

Ms. Ekundayo addressed challenges students are facing:

- Transparency with tuition, fees and cost of attendance. Students want to understand where their finances are going. It would help them be more comfortable making payments.
- Parking. Students feel there are not enough locations to park. They are paying for something they can't utilize.
- Water stations. During hot weather, this is especially needed.

Dr. Whitney asked if there was a question of safety regarding parking. Ms. Ekundayo said it was more about being able to park where it's convenient, or having to park across campus from their residence hall late at night.

Dr. Whitney asked if there was an escort service and she replied that there is.

Dr. Costner asked for specifics about the water stations. Ms. Ekundayo talked about the one in the West Center—that more like these are needed. Dr. Bickford noted that many water fountains still have “do not use” signs.

Dr. Whitney asked the group, “Where do these issues go from here? Can they go to university priorities committee?”

Dr. Glover, as chair of faculty conference, said they could go to him.

Ms. Ekundayo suggested lowering the cost of parking since students can't utilize parking, or being more flexible with parking.

Dr. Judge said these were not academic issues and probably should go through the Vice President of Student Affairs and filter up to the president. He did say he'd be very interested in hearing from students about academic issues, especially with the upcoming Gen Ed review.

Dr. Whitney said his role would be to find the appropriate avenues for these issues and still would like to hear about any issues students are having.

Dr. Sickels suggested we have a student rep at Faculty Conference.

V. **Reports from Standing Committees**

A. **Committee on University Curriculum** (Zach Abernathy)

1. *Curriculum Actions – Appendix A*

13 program changes (1 new baccalaureate, 1 new minor)

Dr. Costner asked about the business programs and high impact programs, specifically, MCNR 300, which is for students with specific student characteristics. He wondered whether the MCNR program director was aware.

Dr. Whitney stated they did not want to penalize anyone for being in that program which could meet the requirement.

Dr. Abernathy noted that this course was already included in previous curriculum action and was not a part of the current changes.

Dr. Whitney said he didn't think we should hold up this change because of this concern.

Dr. Costner said we should be able to look at everything in the program regardless of the change.

Dr. Whitney asked about the scope of looking at courses in other departments. Dr. Costner asked if MCNR 300 was required in any program? The Registrar responded that it is not.

All program changes were passed unanimously.

Dr. Costner asked about the internship course in Math and whether it should be a modification to be variable credit. Dr. Abernathy said they already had two other courses at one and two credits. The Registrar talked about it being consistent in the College of Arts and Science with this model, and that it was a preferred way. She added that variable credit courses wreak havoc with registration.

B. **General Education Curriculum Committee** (Kelly Costner)

1. *Committee actions – Appendix B*

Additional GNED Business - procedural matters

Dr. Costner discussed Gen Ed processes. One conversation had to do with recertification. Formerly, that process was completing the inclusion form again to verify that they are still doing what they're doing. Now that we have an assessment system and are regularly looking at components, we can use that data to see if students are meeting SLOs [Student Learning Outcomes]. If that assessment data shows students are doing what is intended, then the recertification process should be phased out.

Since that meeting, Dr. Richardson found minutes from prior meetings that this was the intention.

Dr. Richardson said on the University College website, under the recertification plan, it outlines the comprehensive plan for revision of the Gen Ed program.

Dr. Costner said he had questions from departments about recertification and this appears to say that assessment is taking care of this.

Dr. Bickford asked if this was now putting the burden on Dr. Richardson. Dr. Richardson said they had some operational processes to work out.

Dr. Costner mentioned Founding Documents may need a special review [due to it begin a state mandated requirement.]

Dr. Richardson talked about Gen Ed appearing in two places in the SACS report—standard 9 and student achievement.

Dr. Costner spoke about the process to include a course needing to be clearer. Right now, the form is assessment-based and doesn't have the curriculum information needed.

Dr. Richardson said she had created a draft of a new form. She went over those changes. She also mentioned working on updating the Gen Ed website. Her priority is to update the forms.

VI. **Old Business**

A. None

VII. **New Business**

A. ***Committee responsibilities***

This was addressed in opening remarks.

Dr. Whitney asked the group, "How do we want to start the process of reviewing Gen Ed. Task force? Research? Do we want to look at this?"

Dr. Bickford said she would like to be on the task force if that was the way we go. Dr. Whitney said he would put together some ideas for a task force. He will create a working document and let members contribute.

B. ***General Education Waiver for AA/AS degrees***

There was a question about the Intensive Writing requirement (IWR). Some programs already have an IWR in the major, so it is fulfilled. Other programs do not. Should we require this extra course?

Dr. Richardson said that IWR used to be handled by a different committee. She asked what does IWR mean? Some courses have a lot a writing, but that doesn't make it an IWR course. Do we move IWR outside of Gen Ed?

Dr. Bloomquist thought the spirit was that HXCT was taking the place of the writing requirements.

Dr. Whitney understood that as well.

Dr. Glover would like to see HXCT count toward that intensive writing. He then asked if it would count for everyone? The Registrar said that if was marked as IWR, it would have to count for everyone.

VIII. **Adjournment**

Dr Whitney adjourned the meeting at 3:40 PM.

Appendix A – CUC Curriculum Actions

These 11 program change items (degree) recommended and forwarded to Academic Council for action:

Program	Action
BA in Data Science	Edit Program: Update program to reflect renumbering of DSCI201 to DSCI300.
BA in Mathematics	Edit Program: Change major electives from MATH above 300 to MATH or DSCI above 299 and from MATH above 500 to MATH or DSCI above 499.
BA in Math Teacher Cert	Edit Program: Change major electives from MATH above 300 to MATH or DSCI above 299.
BS in Bus Admin – Accounting	Edit Program: Add FINC570 as an option for Applied Quantitative Skills in major; Add FINC519 as an High Impact Practice Experience.
BS in Bus Admin-Comp Info Sys	Edit Program: Add FINC570 as an option for Applied Quantitative Skills in major; Add FINC519 as an High Impact Practice Experience.
BS in Bus Admin-Economics	Edit Program: Add FINC570 as an option for Applied Quantitative Skills in major; Add FINC519 as an High Impact Practice Experience.
BS in Bus Admin – Entrepreneurship	Edit Program: Add FINC570 as an option for Applied Quantitative Skills in major; Add FINC519 as an High Impact Practice Experience; In concentration, replace ENTR473 with FINC312, add ENTR491 as a requirement, remove “two of...” and replace with One of MKTG387, 385 or MGMT322.
BS in Bus Admin-Hum Res Mgmt	Edit Program: Inactivate program
BS in Bus Admin-Marketing	Edit Program: Add FINC570 as an option for Applied Quantitative Skills in major; Add FINC519 as an High Impact Practice Experience.
BS in Mathematics	Edit Program: Change major electives from MATH above 300 to MATH or DSCI above 299 and from MATH above 500 to MATH or DSCI above 499.
BS in Web Development	New Program

The following 2 program change items (minor) recommended and forwarded to Academic Council for action:

Program	Action
Minor-Mathematics	Edit Program: Change minor electives from MATH above 299 to MATH or DSCI above 299.
Minor-Web Development	New Program

The following 22 course action items were approved at CUC Level and require no further action:

Course	Action
ACCT491 Accounting Internship	Edit Course: Change prerequisite from “C- or better in ACCT 306 and 2.75 GPA. All ACCT courses numbered above 299 have a prerequisite of junior status, an overall GPA of at least 2.00 and a grade of C- or better in HXMP 102” to “ACCT 305 or concurrent enrollment in ACCT 305 and 2.75 GPA. All ACCT courses numbered above 299 have a prerequisite of junior status, an overall GPA of at least 2.00 and a grade of C- or better in HXMP 102.”
ARTS507 Adv Interdisciplinary Studio	Edit Course: Change prerequisite from “ARTS 407: Intermediate Interdisciplinary Studio or enrollment in MFA in Studio Art” to “ARTS 407: Intermediate Interdisciplinary Studio or enrollment in MFA in Studio Art. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of sophomore status or permission of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts.”
ARTS520 Advanced Drawing	Edit Course: Change prerequisite from “6 credit hours of ARTS 420: Intermediate Drawing. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of junior status and the successful completion of the specialization portfolio review or permission of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts” to “6 credit hours of ARTS 420: Intermediate Drawing. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of sophomore status or permission of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts.”
ARTS532 Advanced Sculpture	Edit Course: Change prerequisite from “6 hours of ARTS 432: Intermediate Sculpture. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of junior status and the successful completion of the specialization portfolio review or permission of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts” to “6 hours of ARTS 432: Intermediate Sculpture. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of sophomore status or permission of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts.”
ARTS536 Advanced Printmaking	Edit Course: Change prerequisite of “ARTS 437 Intermediate Printmaking. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of junior status and the successful completion of the specialization portfolio review or permission of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts; or students enrolled in the MFA in Studio Art” or “ARTS 436 Intermediate Printmaking. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of sophomore status or permission of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts; or students enrolled in the MFA in Studio Art.”
ARTS536H Advanced Printmaking	Edit Course: Change prerequisite of “ARTS 437 Intermediate Printmaking. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of junior status and the successful completion of the specialization portfolio review or permission

Course	Action
	of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts; or students enrolled in the MFA in Studio Art” or “ARTS 436 Intermediate Printmaking. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of sophomore status or permission of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts; or students enrolled in the MFA in Studio Art.”
ARTS542 Advanced Painting	Edit Course: Change prerequisite of “Six hours of ARTS 442. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of junior status and the successful completion of the specialization portfolio review or permission of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts” to “Six hours of ARTS 442. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of sophomore status or permission of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts.”
ARTS542H Advanced Painting	Edit Course: Change prerequisite of “Six hours of ARTS 442. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of junior status and the successful completion of the specialization portfolio review or permission of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts” to “Six hours of ARTS 442. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of sophomore status or permission of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts.”
ARTS551 Advanced Ceramics	Edit Course: Change prerequisite from “6 hours of ARTS 451: Intermediate Ceramics” to “Six hours of ARTS 451: Intermediate Ceramics. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of sophomore status or permission of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts.”
ARTS555 Advanced Jewelry and Metals	Edit Course: Change prerequisite from “6 hours of ARTS 455: Intermediate Jewelry and Metals” to “Six hours of ARTS 455: Intermediate Jewelry and Metals. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of sophomore status or permission of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts.”
ARTS560 Advanced Expanded Media	Edit Course: Change prerequisite from “ARTS 307, ARTS 324, and 3 credits of either ARTS 407 or ARTS 424. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of junior status and the successful completion of the specialization portfolio review or permission of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts; or students enrolled in the MFA in Studio Art” to “ARTS 307, ARTS 324, and 3 credits of either ARTS 407 or ARTS 424. All ARTS (3:7) numbered above 375 have a prerequisite of sophomore status or permission of the Chair of the Department of Fine Arts; or students enrolled in the MFA in Studio Art.”
BIOL360 Peer Mentoring in Biology	Edit Course: Change from zero to .5 credits.
CHEM520 Essentials of Biochemistry	Edit Course: Change prerequisite from “CHEM302 with a grade of C or above, CHEM304 with a grade of C or above” to “C- or better in CHEM302 and CHEM304.”
CHEM523 Biochemistry I	Edit Course: Change prerequisite from “A grade of C or better in CHEM 302 and CHEM 304, and EITHER BIOL 203

Course	Action
	and 204 OR BIOL 220 and 222” to “A grade of C- or better in CHEM 302, CHEM 304, and CHEM 323, and EITHER BIOL 203 and 204 OR BIOL 220 and 222, OR BIOL 220 and 270.”
CHEM525 Biochemistry Lab Techniques	Edit Course: Remove prerequisite of “CHEM 302 and 304 with a C or better.”
CHEM526 Adv Techniques in Biochemistry	Edit Course: Change prerequisite from “C or better in each of the following: CHEM302, CHEM304, CHEM523, CHEM525” to “C- or better in each of the following: CHEM523 and CHEM525.”
DSCI201 Intro to Data Science	Inactivate Course: Being renumbered as DSCI300
DSCI300 Intro to Data Science	New Course
ECON491 Internship in Economics	Edit Course: Change prerequisite from “2.5 GPA and grade of C- or better in two courses above ECON 299. All ECON courses numbered above 299 have a prerequisite of junior status, an overall GPA of at least 2.00 and a C- or better in HMXP 102” to “Any ECON>299 or concurrent enrollment in any ECON>299 and 2.5 GPA. All ECON courses numbered above 299 have a prerequisite of junior status, an overall GPA of at least 2.00 and a C- or better in HMXP 102.”
EDCI595 Intro to Curr & Instr for Gift	Edit Course: Change prerequisite from “2.75 GPA; not open to freshmen” to “2.75 GPA; EDCI594.” Approval pending assessment support details
MATH462 Acad Internships in Mathematic	New Course
MUST513 Counterpoint	Edit Course: Change prerequisite from “MUST 212 or permission of instructor” to “MUST 211 with minimum grade of C.”

The following 3 course action items were approved at College Assembly Level and require no further action:

Course	Action
ARTH580 Topics in Art Hist/Vis Culture	Edit Course: Change title from “Special Topics in Art History” to “Special Topics in Art History and Visual Culture;” Update the number of time course can be repeated for credit from 3 to 9.
EDCO201 Eff Pract Cult Ling Div Lnrs	Edit Course: Change title from “Supporting the English as a Second Language Student in the General Education Classroom” to “Effective Practices for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners in the P-12 Classroom.”
EDCO202 Eff Pract Exceptional Learners	Edit Course: Update catalog description; Change title from “Supporting Exceptional and Gifted Learners in the General Education Classroom” to “Effective Practices for Exceptional Learners in the P-12 Classroom.”

Appendix B - General Education Committee

Area	Course	Title	Comments
HUMA	ARTS 335	Screenprint	
HUMA	ARTS 336	Relief Printmaking	
HUMA	ARTS 337	Intaglio Printmaking	
Nat Sci (Physical)	CHEM 201	Gen Chemistry I	
Writ Inten	MCOM/IMCO 301	Media Research and Analysis	<i>Pending revised syllabus to include appropriate ULC</i>

Appendix C – Committee responsibilities

Faculty Conference bylaws (note Article IX – Academic Council on pg. 10):

<https://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/facultyconference/FacultyConferenceBylaws.pdf>

Curriculum Action Review levels:

<https://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/recandreg/Services/curriculum-review-levels.pdf>

Appendix C – General Education Waiver for AA/AS degrees

Undergraduate Transfer Credit Policy –

<https://www.winthrop.edu/recandreg/undergraduate-transfer-credit-policy.aspx>

Background:

- Our transfer policy infers that we have three core writing courses (WRIT101, HMXP102, and CRTW201) per our gen ed. It is expected that AA or AS transfer students will fulfill a similar sequence with ENG 101, ENG 102, and HXCT 301.

Issue:

- The transfer policy does not address the Intensive Writing gen ed requirement. Yet, most gen ed requirements are waived upon successfully transferring with an AA or AS.