Faculty Senate Minutes

Monday, June 7, 2021

4:00-5:30p

*Present:* Melissa Anderson, Amy Belcastro, Jeremy Carlton, Paul Condon, Brian Fedorek, Paul French, Andrew Gay, Marianne Golding, Justin Harmon, Laurie Kurutz, Eric Levin (repl. Brendan McMahon), Jesse Longhurst, Merrilyne Lundahl, Matt Moreali, Tiffany Morey, Anna Oliveri, Michael Parker (Biology), Aprille Phillips, Mark Siders, Ellen Siem, Michael Stanfill, Chad Thatcher, Precious Yamaguchi, Kemble Yates

*Absent:* Paul French

*Guests:*  Dan DeNeui, Sherry Ettlich, Kristin Hocevar, Rachel Jochem, Christopher Lucas, Erik Palmer, Michael Parker (OCA), Alena Ruggerio, Linda Schott, Matt Stillman, Karen Stone, Sue Walsh, Jody Waters

Meeting called to order at: 4:00 pm.

1. **Approval of Minutes from 5/24**

[video timestamp - 1:03 min]

**Motion & Vote:**

Oliveri moved to approve the minutes, and Kurutz seconded. **Motion passed** unanimously.

1. **President’s Report – Linda Schott**

[video timestamp - 2:09]

Gratitude

* + President Schott expressed gratitude to all faculty for facing significant challenges and supporting our students this year and to Yates for his service as Faculty Senate Chair.

End-of-Year Recognition Ceremony

* + The ceremony will begin at 12:30 pm on Wednesday (June 9).
  + It will be live-streamed from the Rogue River Room. Please attend and honor those being recognized for their excellent work and service.

Softball

* + SOU’s softball team won another ([2nd in a row](https://www.naia.org/sports/sball/2020-21/releases/WorldSeries_ChampionshipRecap)) NAIA Softball Championship. SOU will hold an off-campus parade on Wednesday.

HECC Meetings

* + These will take place on Wednesday and Thursday.
  + The Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday and discuss “[Financial Outlook–Averting Disaster](https://www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Documents/Commission/FA/2021/June%209/3.0%20FA%20Docket%20Item%20-%20Financial%20Outlook.pdf)” (a document). The document is worth reading as it gives a big-picture view and insight in regards to what is being tracked.

Board of Trustees Meeting

* + This will take place next week, and all are welcome to attend. Agenda items will include adult learners (part of the Adult and Student Affairs Committee), finances, and the presidential search.

*Discussion:* Senators wished President Schott a Happy Birthday.

1. **Provost’s Report – Sue Walsh**

[video timestamp - 6:08]

Gratitude

* + Provost Walsh expressed gratitude to all faculty for their participation, support, and collegiality in an incredibly challenging environment and to Yates for his Senate leadership.

1. **Advisory Council Report – Chair-elect Melissa Anderson**

[video timestamp - 7:58]

* + Advisory Council met on Memorial day and discussed items on the agenda.
  + Much of the discussion focused on the new Gen Ed, including the mechanics of voting, summer work, implementation, and other logistical details.
  + Senate has nominees for both the Faculty Senate Chair-elect and Secretary!

1. **Curriculum Committee proposals**

[video timestamp - 9:54]

Music and Theater new courses (Action) [See 5/24 folder for materials]

**Motion & Vote to approve the new curriculum:**

Oliveri moved, and Kurutz seconded. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Military Science course hard number (Discussion)

* + The course has already been approved and is simply being hard-numbered, and Mark Tveskov might be teaching it, as he has had training from Fort Leavenworth.

**Motion & Vote to waive the 2-week rule:**

Gay moved, and Levin seconded. **Motion passed** unanimously.

**Motion & Vote to approve the new curriculum :**

Gay moved, and Kurutz seconded. **Motion passed** with 1 abstention (Levin).

1. **Possible Bylaws amendment for Graduate Studies Committee (Action)**

[video timestamp - 17:36]

Preface: The amendments were shared with all faculty 1 week ago.

**Motion & Vote to approve the bylaws amendments:**

Fedorek moved, and Stanfill seconded. **Motion passed** unanimously.

1. **Academic Policies Committee**

[video timestamp - 20:30]

Proposal re Reserved Graduate Credit (Action) [See 5/24 folder for materials]

Discussion:

*Proposal Process.* Proposals would involve existing curriculum, and the vetting process is work in progress but would be holistic. A program that would like to put forward a proposal would likely first have an informal conversation with Matt Stillman or Jody Waters, their division director, and the provost. The proposal would also need to be evaluated from a tuition fees angle. It would also likely go to the Academic Policies and the Graduate Studies Committee.

*Communicating this Opportunity.* In March, this was presented to the Board of Trustees. Because interesting opportunities might come from programs that do not have a strong presence in graduate programs, it could be advantageous to make more faculty aware of this opportunity. Provost Walsh agreed to share the information in multiple venues.

**Motion & Vote to approve the reserved graduate credit:**

Levin moved, and Yamaguchi seconded. **Motion passed** unanimously.

1. **Faculty Development Committee**

[video timestamp - 28:28]

Carpenter II Grant Awards

**Motion & Vote to waive the 2-week rule:**

Gay moved, and Thatcher seconded. **Motion passed** with 1 abstention (Kurutz).

**Motion & Vote to approve the new curriculum :**

Golding moved, and Yamaguchi seconded. **Motion passed** with 1 abstention (Kurutz).

1. **Proposed Changes to General Education (Action)**

[video timestamp - 31:32]

*Please refer to the Gen Ed materials provided for this meeting. Specifically, please refer to the* [*Task Force Recommendations*](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1fO0NIicnRec0xwqW5e4WoAknajlNdli5PZAWOsOC6n8/edit)*,* [*GenEd Model Approval Sequence*](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1oWgegZz3jzjFDSNi6-U69Z_mCM0mXerrnlQCrrxknrg/edit)*, and* [*Accelerated GenEd Course Approval Process & Procedure*](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1BVQJs_3aR-RMU8UdLYaiCsnEGCuik01z31nx-m2BRWs/edit) *documents.*

Preface

Yates proposed that, of the 5 recommendations provided by the task force, Senate vote on the first recommendation and the first paragraph of the second recommendation, leaving next year’s Senate to make final decisions on the remaining recommendations.

**Motion (read carefully)**

Oliveri moved:

(1) to formally accept the six recommended “Core Capacities” as the basis for SOU’s future General Education curriculum, GenEd course development and approval, and assessment of GenEd, with recognition that work will continue on the specific proficiency language to be used in each capacity and the Task Force will update Faculty Senate in AY 21-22 with final revisions,

(2) to adopt Part 1 of the Task Force’s recommended changes to General Education as described in the [GenEd Model Approval Sequence document](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oWgegZz3jzjFDSNi6-U69Z_mCM0mXerrnlQCrrxknrg/edit?usp=sharing), for implementation during the 21-22 academic year and launch in Fall 2022, contingent on appropriate implementation benchmarks being reached (see: [Accelerated GenEd Course Approval Process & Procedure](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BVQJs_3aR-RMU8UdLYaiCsnEGCuik01z31nx-m2BRWs/edit?usp=sharing)), such that with passage of this motion, the Transforming GenEd Task Force will be charged with implementation oversight for AY 21-22 and will report progress on implementation benchmarks at each Faculty Senate meeting in AY 21-22.

Siem seconded the motion.

Discussion:

*Timing.* If the vote were to go through now, the transition would not be immediate. If the accelerated course approval process is passed with a vote (recommendation 5), various capacity courses would have priority deadlines. This would effectively stagger the review of courses so as to reduce the strain on other faculty groups. Benchmarks have been set for the minimum number of courses needed in each area, and if those benchmarks are not reached, the implementation date would be moved back from 2022.

*Deadlines, Course Budget Planning, and Stipends.* Some faculty would like to extend the priority deadlines to May or June so that the work would not have to be done over the summer – some faculty are unable to contribute now or in summer due to other professional commitments. This would be challenging because we will need to know whether we have enough gen ed courses by February, as we enter the course budget planner process. Stipends will be available (beyond summer) for work on courses for the new gen ed.

*Benchmark for Number of EDI Courses*. Because both models require students to take an upper-division EDI course, the upper-division EDI benchmark is relatively high (17 compared to the sum total of 17 upper-division courses needed by the other capacities).

*Accelerated Approval Process.* If implemented, courses could receive 1-, 2-, or 3-year provisional approvals. A team of 3 faculty would recommend a provisional approval to use a course in the new gen ed, the University Studies Committee would review that recommendation and, if they agree, Senate would vote on the recommendation. New courses would also have to be approved by the Curriculum Committee

*Sustainability.* Early in the process, the task force had a list of 14 learning goals. Sustainability was one of these goals. Later, the task force realized that groups of courses could be designed to create thematic pathways through the gen ed, such as a sustainability pathway through the capacities. Pathways would not require an approval or vote, and there may be a presentation about pathways in the Fall.

*Wordsmithing the Proficiencies*. The task force expects to work with focus groups of students next year to wordsmith proficiencies for greater clarity/legibility to students. Also, the exact number of credits/classes would be malleable.

*Number of Credits*. Approving the motion would begin the approval process for 3- and 4-credit courses. However, it would not give more flexibility in numbers of credits per course and it would not set a requirement for an exact number of credits for every capacity. These would be separate voting items.

*Concern about Assessibilty.* Some example skills given in the descriptions of capacities do not seem assessible. The work to identify what is and what is not assessible will begin in summer and will likely evolve over time. The language in the faculty templates will evolve to reflect this.

*Broad Strokes First.* Some faculty expressed a willingness to support a change in gen ed without yet committing to a particular model.

*Gen Ed Course Development*. The task force anticipates that many faculty are already teaching the capacities in their courses, including existing University Studies courses. Hence, in some cases all that will be needed is to identify how a course addresses the capacity and associated portfolio artifacts. Other courses might need more extensive changes, and new courses will need to go through Curriculum Committee.

*Meaning of a Yes Vote.* A “yes” vote would basically approve Model A minus a culminating portfolio. It would give the ability to begin the course approval process. After this vote, Faculty Senate would have the option to amend the model with anything from Part 2 of the GenEd Model Approval Sequence, which would produce Model A, Model B2, or some hybrid between the 2.

*Capacities*. Faculty will begin working on courses for the capacities this summer, so the task force would discourage changing the capacities.

**Motion passed** with 2 nays (Harmon, Levin).

**Motion & Vote to adopt the accelerated approval process and procedure:**

Gay moved, and Yamaguchi seconded.

Discussion:

*New/Modified Courses.* New and modified courses will need to be approved by the Curriculum Committee. The task force recommends that faculty first think about courses already being taught that could be a good match for a capacity, without fundamentally changing the course in a way that would require a review from the Curriculum Committee.

*Courses Taught Every 2-3 Years.* The priority deadline is intended for courses that will be taught in 2023. For courses that would be taught in later years, faculty have more time to propose their courses for the new gen ed.

*Templates.* The templates that are approved this summer will be operational for faculty working to meet priority deadlines, but at some point the University Studies Committee will need to approve the templates for future use, perhaps with modifications.

**Motion passed** with 1 abstention (Belcastro).

1. **Seating of New Senate (Action)**

[video timestamp - 1:37:24]

The Seating

*Thank you to all senators ending their terms*

Paul Condon, Paul French, Justin Harmon, Laurie Kurutz, Marianne Golding, Tiffany Morey, Aprille Phillips, and Precious Yamaguchi

*Thank you to all senators beginning their terms*

Alma Rosa Alvarez, Anne Connor, Kristin Hocevar, Rachel Jochem, Christopher Lucas, Michael Parker (OCA), Jessica Piekielek, and Lisa Wileman

*\*\*Yates passed the gavel to Anderson, the new Senate Chair.\*\**

Election of Chair-elect and Secretary

* + After a nomination, motion, and vote:
    - **Fedorek** is the new Faculty Senate Chair-elect.
    - **Oliveri** is the new Faculty Senate Secretary.

Selection of **New Advisory Council** (AC)

* + AC consists of the Faculty Senate past-Chair (Yates), Chair (Anderson), Chair-elect (Fedorek), Secretary (Oliveri), 3 additional senators, the President and Provost.
  + **Gay**, **Moreali**, and **Siders** volunteered to serve as the 3 additional senators. These placements were supported through a motion and vote.

Selection of New Constitution, Elections, and Committee-on-Committees

* + For each case below, the senators listed volunteered to serve. The placements were supported through a motion and vote.
    - ***Constitution:***  Longhurst, Siem, Yates
    - ***Elections:*** Carlton, Hocevar, Thatcher
    - ***Committee-on-Committees:***  Fedorek, Lucas, Lundahl

Brief planning/scheduling for 2021-22

* + The first AC meeting will be held 9/27, and the first Senate meeting will be held 10/4.
  + Unless things change, Faculty Senate will likely be held in person, with the option for remote attendance if needed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm.