

## Minutes of the September 12 Meeting of the Undergraduate Council of the University Senate

Minutes prepared by Hanna Nekvasil, Chair

In attendance Hanna Nekvasil, Erica Ayisa-Boahene, Kevin McDonnell, Deborah Zelizer, Deborah Serling, Madeline Turan, Donna Crapanzano, Kara Desanna, Diane Bello, Brenda Anderson, Catherine Johnston, John Peter Gergen, Jennifer DeVito

### Meeting was dedicated to discussing the General Education Advisory Committee charge document and faculty participants.

- 1.) Hanna N. gave the background for the formation of this committee charged by the Provost. This included
  - Need for some formal UGC advisory role for general education, as it cuts across programs and schools.
  - Need for statistical data addressing not only course objectives but fundamental questions such as the effect of the current SBC on student progress towards graduation
  - Need for forward planning for next-generation Gen Ed objectives and requirements through the context of data obtained from the current requirements and the evolving SUNY directed changes.
  - The Provost's agreement that this committee should consist of both administrative and faculty members, dominated by faculty.
  - With input of the CAS Dean it was decided that the committee would have 12 faculty members appointed by the faculty Senate as follows:
    - Two faculty members to represent the Undergraduate Council
    - Three faculty members from CAS, one each to represent Arts&Humanities, Natural and Physical sciences, Social and behavioral Sciences.
    - Seven faculty members, one from every other College/School that awards undergraduate degrees: Business, Communications & Journalism, CEAS, Health Professions, SOMAS, Nursing, and Social Welfare.
  - The committee would have 2 representatives from the USG
  - The committee would have 4 administrators:
    - The chief assessment officer
    - The chief institutional research officer
    - An administrator with expertise in curriculum
    - An administrator with expertise in learning and teaching
  - The committee would have the following responsibilities
    - Explore and understand how well students master and demonstrate the articulated outcomes of Stony Brook's general education curriculum
    - Recommend policies, structures, and mechanisms to ensure the general education curriculum fulfills its stated purpose, learning objectives, and external requirements; this includes making recommendations to the

Assessment Council about parameters for the assessment of general education learning outcomes

- Consider periodically (no less than every five years) the purpose and scope of Stony Brook's general education curriculum in terms of relevance and impact on students and departments
  - Validate that Stony Brook's general education program meets requirements of regulatory entities, including accreditors, the NY State Dept. of Education, and the State University of New York.
  - Review reports and make recommendations about
    - The extent of student learning in each area of general education
    - The sufficiency of available courses in each area of general education
    - The satisfaction of students and faculty about the general education curriculum
  - Prepare for the Undergraduate Council of the University Senate and the Office of the Provost an annual report about how the Committee has addressed each point of its charge.
- 2.) The UGC made changes to the draft charge document; these were sent to Braden Hosch. These changes also addressed the concern of Peter Gergen that terms of the faculty members should be staggered to avoid a sudden loss of a major part of the committee.
  - 3.) Many members of the UGC volunteered to represent their academic units on this committee and agreed that since all UGC members were already elected representatives from specific academic units UGC members were uniquely suited for the GEAC. For academic units that have no UGC representative, names of outside qualified potential committee members were solicited.
  - 4.) Two members of the UGC on the GEAC committee who will represent the voice of the UGC rather than their individual program/school were selected.
  - 5.) Hanna Nekvasil indicated that she would spearhead the formulation and initial meetings of the Committee, but a formal vote for a chair would take place as soon as possible.