2021 - 2022 Annual Faculty Senate Committee Report

Faculty Senate Committee Name: General Education Council

Faculty Senate Committee Chair Name: Amy Harris Houk (Libraries)

2022-2023 Incoming Committee Chair Name: Jessica McCall (CAS)

Unit Representation:
Voting Members:
Sara MacSween (BRY)
Bruce Banks (CAS)
Jonathan Zarecki (CAS)
Igor Erovenko (CAS)
Jeff Jones (CAS)
Jessica McCall (CAS)
Sarah Cervenak (CAS)
Mike Thull (HHS)- on leave in spring 2022
Terry Wicks (NUR)
Lisa O’Connor (SOE)
Andrew Hudson (VPA)
Jeremy Ingraham (Senate Liaison)

Ex Officio Members:
Lisa Henline/Chris Partridge (URO)
Jodi Pettazzoni (OAAAPP)
Dana Saunders (SFO)
Jennifer Stephens (RCO)
Angela Bolte (LIHC)

Academic Year Report Covers: 2021-22

Date Prepared: 05/20/2022

List of dates the committee met:
2021: August 13, August 27, September 10, September 24, October 8, October 29, November 12 (half-day joint retreat with MAC implementation team), December 6, December 17
List and briefly describe major accomplishments of the committee for the year:

MAC curriculum:

- Reviewed approximately 55 course proposals and revisions for potential inclusion in the MAC program.
- Subcommittee of GEC and MAC IC members evaluated the syllabi of all crosswalked courses that were taught in fall 2021 (over 250 syllabi) for alignment with MAC competencies and SLOs. As a result of this review, Council has begun working with departments and faculty to better align courses with the MAC (this is further discussed in the Action Items for Future Consideration section below).
- Developed a policy for sequenced courses that requires any courses in a sequence must carry the same MAC attribute.
- Updated enrollment restriction for Foundations courses to freshman or sophomore status or written permission of instructor.
- Approved Course Shell Policy, which provides a structure for evaluating and reviewing MAC courses that are housed in shells (courses taught through Lloyd International Honors College, Freshman Seminars Program, and Residential Colleges).
- Collaborated with UTLC, the Undergraduate Studies Fellow, and the MAC Implementation Team to plan and execute the Foundations Institute, geared towards faculty who teach Foundations courses or are interested in developing these courses. The goal of this event was to help align expectations for Foundations courses across disciplines.

Student and advisor appeals:

- Established a formal appeals process and three forms for students and advisors to submit appeals: Advisor Appeal for General Education Substitution, MAC Administrative Review, and Petition for General Education Requirements.
- Reviewed approximately 175 appeals submitted through these forms.
- Formed a subcommittee with GEC and MAC Implementation Team members to determine possible revisions to the forms after a semester of use (actual updates will occur during summer 2022, led by Dana Saunders).

List any action items for future consideration (if applicable):

The main action item for the 2022-23 academic year will be to continue to work with the courses that were crosswalked into the MAC program. As the previous chair indicated in his annual report last year, we knew there were issues with many of these courses; now, having evaluated them, we have more insight into the scope of the issues. This summer and into next year will include individual outreach and feedback to instructors and then follow up to ensure these courses are being held to the same standard as courses that were approved for MAC.
With regards to phased implementation of the MAC program, the major focus next year will be the integration of MAC competencies into majors. We will be working closely with The Office of Assessment, Accreditation, and Academic Program Planning to develop policies and procedures related to this integration.

Another area of need for GEC and the ongoing MAC implementation is MAC Faculty Fellows. The document “Considerations for Implementation of the Proposed General Education Program”, which was presented to the Faculty Senate alongside the proposal for the MAC program in 2019, “recommends an intentional program of professional development, perhaps one that includes faculty ‘fellows’ in order to enhance the effectiveness of this program”. These Fellows would be faculty with expertise related to a specific MAC competency. This program was piloted in the spring semester of 2021 (the semester before the program began) with three Fellows: one for Foundations, one for Health & Wellness, and one for Diversity & Equity. Unfortunately, no additional fellows have been hired since, with the exception of the Undergraduate Studies Fellow, who had MAC administration as one of her areas of focus and provided a valuable link between MAC Implementation and the General Education Council. Bringing new Faculty Fellows on board would help to improve the MAC program in numerous ways, including:

- Helping faculty create stronger MAC course proposals, which would reduce the need for proposals to be voted on and rolled back by Council multiple times before approval
- Providing one-on-one consultations with faculty on creating assignments and assessments that allow students to demonstrate learning of the MAC SLOs
- Providing professional development opportunities for new faculty and graduate students who will be teaching existing MAC courses

Faculty Fellows would report to a newly formed Faculty Development Subcommittee of the General Education Council. This program is vital to the continued success of the MAC program, but Council does not have a budget to fund it.

**Discuss strengths and opportunities for improvement:**

One area for improvement is the Council makeup. Traditionally, the membership of GEC has been largely Professional Track Faculty, which is less than ideal from a labor perspective but they are also the ones who teach the majority of MAC classes. In order for Council to continue making decisions in the best interest of the MAC program and the students who complete it, Council should be made up of members who are knowledgeable about the MAC and even, when possible, have taught MAC courses. I am interested in amending the Constitution to include additional requirements for GEC members. A precedent was set by the Student Learning Enhancement Committee, which includes this under Membership: “Deans should appoint excellent teachers and faculty with expertise in undergraduate, graduate, and distance education” (III. B. 4. k.). For General Education Council members, expertise in teaching undergraduate courses, specifically MAC courses when possible, should be required for membership.

Active engagement in the work of Council, both before and during meetings, is also vital to the ongoing success of the MAC program.
## 2022-23 GEC Membership

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