



## 2023 - 2024 Annual Faculty Senate Committee Report

**Faculty Senate Committee Name: General Education Council (MAC Council)**

**Faculty Senate Committee Chair Name: Jessica McCall**

**2024-2025 Incoming Committee Chair Name: Jessica McCall**

### Unit Representation:

## Members

The General Education Council is composed of faculty from across the University, representing each of the Schools and Colleges (except the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering).

Council members are appointed by the Provost on the recommendation of the Deans of the various Schools and Colleges. Ex-officio, non-voting members are appointed by the Provost as needed.

### Council Members For 2023-24

Jessica McCall (Chair)	CAS: Communication Studies	(2021-2024)
Hunter Bacot	CAS: Political Science	(2022-2025)
Sarah Cervenak	CAS: Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies	(2023-2026)
Jim Coleman	CAS: Biology	(2022-2025)
Natalie Sowell	CVPA: School of Theatre	(2021-2024)
Jeff Sarbaum	BRY: Information Systems and Supply Chain Management	(2023-2026)
Melody Rood	University Libraries	(2023-2026)
Daniel Huebner	Faculty Senate	(2023-2024)
Izzet Lofca	SOE: Library and Information Science	(2021-2024)
Gary Rosenkrantz	CAS: Philosophy	(2022-2025)
Jessica Obermeyer	HHS: Communication Sciences and Disorders	(2021-2024)
Terry Wicks	School of Nursing	(2021-2024)
Cindy Brooks Dollar	CAS: Sociology	(2021-2024)

### Ex-Officio & Non-Voting Members

Angela Bolte	Assistant Dean of the Lloyd International Honors College
Raina Barnett	Interim University Registrar
Jodi Pettazoni	Associate Vice Provost & Director of Assessment
Dana Saunders	Assistant Dean for Advising & Student Success
Andrew Hamilton	Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs & Dean of Undergraduate Studies

### Academic Year Report Covers: 2023-2024

**Date Prepared: 4-30-24**

#### List of dates the committee met:

8/25/23

9/22/23

10/20/23

11/10/23

12/1/23 (Electronic Review)

1/19/24

2/2/24

2/23/24

4/12/24

4/26/24

Small Committee meetings to manage ongoing appeals: May, June, July

#### List and briefly describe major accomplishments of the committee for the year:

The General Education Council continues to oversee the integration and implementation of MAC. In collaboration with the MAC Implementation Committee (IC), the Office of Assessment, and the Registrars' Office, we seek to meet the ongoing needs of a newly integrated general education system while also maintaining a space for democratic and deliberative decision making during a challenging year for the university.

#### This year we were able to accomplish the following:

- 1) Reviewed 8 MAC Course Proposals

- 2) Completed the process of MAC recertification for four competencies: 1) Quantitative Reasoning; 2) Data Analysis and Interpretation; 3) Foundations; and 4) Health and Wellness.
- 3) Oversaw and assisted with MAC assessment of selected competencies during Fall 2023-Spring 2024.
- 4) Explored ways to update council membership. We are working to determine how to best represent all units at UNCG and all MAC competencies. A proposal to slightly alter council membership will be sent to Faculty Senate in Fall 2024.
- 5) Developed and approved MAC Completion Policy- Within first 30 hours
- 6) Approved a phased implementation of the QEP- "Spartans Thrive" instruction in Foundations courses.
- 7) Assisted with January MAC Assessment Workshop. Led by Frances Bottenberg and the Office of Assessment, this was held in January 2024. Eight Faculty members were asked to review work products from the Diversity & Equity and Oral Communication Competencies.
- 8) Offered formal drop-in sessions for faculty to discuss MAC courses AND work with numerous faculty members individually to develop and refine MAC courses; the refined courses were then approved by Council.
- 9) Contributed to and approved many ongoing efforts of the Implementation committee. Some of these discussions and projects are as follows:
  - Ongoing seat management of MAC Classes
  - Establishing the need for a MAC Faculty Fellow
  - Sunsetting (discontinuing) previous General Education program
  - Integrating MAC into upper-level classes
  - Prior Learning Assessment/Competency based education
  - Determining the best procedure for allowing courses to change competencies
  - Developing a streamline appeals process (Appeals and MAC Administrative Reviews)
  - Ensuring compliance with UNC System and SACSCOC standards
  - Planning a program review of MAC

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

**As we move into Fall 2024, the General Education Council will plan to do the following:**

- 1) Continue to discuss and contribute to critical decisions concerning competency-based education and credit awarded for experience (if applicable). We will continue to work on developing policies and procedures for competency-based Education. Based on the UNC System Military Policy, UNCG will need to efficiently and effectively develop a means in which to award credit for military service/courses.
- 2) Develop a streamline system for awarding MAC credit for students during study abroad. We need to develop a procedure/protocol to efficiently and accurately approve courses (taken while studying abroad) as MAC competency courses.
- 3) Draft a proposal to increase council membership. We will keep the current school based representation and hope to add faculty as needed to cover all competencies.
- 4) Explore ways to assess the MAC competency-based program in its current state.

**Discuss strengths and opportunities for improvement:**

Partnerships with and among the Office of Assessment, The UTLC, The Division of Student Success (Dana Saunders), and the Dean of Undergraduate Studies (Andrew Hamilton) have been extremely helpful and necessary. For MAC to be effectively and efficiently implemented we need to be in continuous conversation with many offices and departments.

Our council as a whole is quite strong. We chose to have most of our meetings face-to-face and this has been incredibly helpful for developing rapport and engaging in vibrant discussions. Faculty who previously felt disconnected in meetings and not part of the decision making, have voiced their appreciation for the group and the meetings. While the face-to-face meetings have limited some individuals' participation, we believe it is an important part of our work.

**Here are a few areas for improvement:**

- 1) More support for the council and the implementation of MAC programming is needed. Currently the Office of Assessment is taking on this task as there is not another unit able to do this. We are told a MAC Faculty Fellow will be appointed.
- 2) Clear and explicit information must be provided to all faculty and departments concerning Gen Ed Council decisions. We seek to be transparent and help all departments understand the regulations and requirements. Currently there is not an effective means of distributing information in a timely manner. While Faculty Senate Committee Reports are helpful, we know that many people are still uninformed. This causes confusion and frustration when policies and decisions are made and not conveyed.