

## Committee on Committee Minutes

January 10, 2022

10:00 a.m.

MBI L1-108 / via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/91481247006?pwd=TUdHQWZtRmxCclJlaVNvWXJ2U3Axdz09>

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**Present:** Paramita Chakrabarty, Steven Swarts, Nian Wang, Lori Knackstedt, Patrick Klager, Richard Scholtz, Timothy Brophy, Angela Lindner, Maria Leite, and Amanda Phalin.

**1. Call to Order** – Paramita Chakrabarty - Chair, COC

- The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by CoC Chair Paramita Chakrabarty.

**2. Approve December 13, 2021 Minutes** - Paramita Chakrabarty - Chair, COC

- The minutes were approved.

**3. Academic Assessment Committee (AAC)** – Tim Brophy, Chair, AAC Chair

& Maria Leite, Assistant Director of Institutional Assessment

- Dr. Tim Brophy, Director of Institutional Assessment and ACC Chair, provided a committee overview. This committee plays a role in reviewing requests for academic assessment plans including student learning outcomes (SLO). The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) has expressed interest in the structure of combination programs (Bachelors/Masters; DMD, etc. degrees) and how credits are shared. This assessment is expected to take up a considerable amount of the committee's time. SACSCOC accreditation of the University comes up in 2024.

- This is a joint committee with 8 members. Meetings are well-attended. Current administrative liaisons (such as Dr. Angela Lindner) are appropriate. The committee is requesting 4 additional members. Dr. Brophy hopes to recruit additional members in FY 2022-2023. It is suggested that these additional members will be nominated by the senate (2) and by the President (2).

Generally, this committee is divided into four review groups of 2 persons each, sometimes resulting in a tie. Thus, having additional members would help to resolve this. Sometimes, individual members are not available due to other professional and educational commitments.

- Dr. Brophy will appear before the University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC) this month to update the committee's responsibility and work scope. This committee was formed in 2010 and has evolved since. The language of the Senate Bylaws governing this committee function will need to be updated to better reflect what the committee actually does.

- The only major issue is the increased workload because of the SACSCOC's continuing interest in the combination degree programs. In the last few years, some additional duties were performed by this committee that goes beyond the constitutional charge. The committee jointly established a new journal (Journal of Assessment of Higher Education) in collaboration with the library. The committee directly oversees and hosts the annual assessment conference. This

conference started in 2007, first internally and subsequently expanded to participants in the Southeast and US as a whole. This year's conference will be held virtually in March.

- This committee works closely with the General Education Committee (GEC), specifically the assessment subcommittee under the General Education committee. The Academic Assessment Committee has a task force that assesses the outcomes of UF Quest courses (overseen by General Education Committee). The General Education Committee also has a sub-committee that Dr. Brophy chairs. This sub-committee assesses the outcomes and how this is related to improvement of general education. The nature of the SACSCOC accreditation requires a quality enhancement plan to be in place. Monthly updates are sent to UCC.

- This committee has an SOP and Dr. Brophy shares this with members. This SOP will be posted on the website for ready accessibility by general audience or faculty who are interested.

- Dr. Brophy mentioned that they received recognition for excellence in assessment. This is due to a well-functioning internal assessment procedure that is institutionally overseen by the committee.

- The committee normally reviews modifications to current assessment plans of learner outcomes during monthly meetings. All assessment reports submitted during the year are reviewed by Dr. Brophy and Dr. Leite at the unit, program, and college levels.

4. **General Education Committee (GEC)** - Angela Lindner, GEC Chair

- Associate Provost of Undergraduate Affairs and GEC Chair [Dr. Angela Lindner presented slides which provided an overview of the GEC](#).

- The General Education Committee oversees a very large program. The General Education program should help students think critically and communicate effectively, and better understand themselves. Learning outcomes are designed to allow this. There are standard set of courses for science or humanity focused students - these are mandated by State core requirements (15 credit hours), UF Quest requirements and general education requirements. Additional course requirements for general education include 3 credits for diversity and 3 credits for international course and this is unique to UF. Some students bring in advanced placement credits from high school. A new objective is UF Quest which is required for all students. This ensures shared experience at a university level learning.

- Working directly with deans and department chairs, the committee ensures that there are no overlapping of courses. The committee has 32 members, including administrative liaisons and student members. Engineering Faculty Council members have also recently attended as guests. A Co-chair is elected by and from the committee's Senate representatives. The committee is functioning very well. Attendance and participation is engaged. This committee works closely with the Academic Assessment Committee and also with UCC.

- There are several standing sub-committees; self-assessment, review, audit and diversity sub-committees. The submission process is now streamlined - see [approval.ufl.edu](#). Auditing is also done on existing courses. This committee works collaboratively with faculty who are requesting addition/modification of courses. The committee (under the Review sub-committee) communicates with faculty requesting new courses and allows the faculty to respond to committee member comments before the actual committee meeting. This review process is modeled after NSF proposal review process. In the past year, 13 general education courses and 40 Quest courses have been evaluated by the committee.

- The major challenge with general education at UF is the size of it (6500+ new students per year). Sometimes, students want to get these requirements done in the first two years (rather

than undergoing an experience). It is hoped that UF Quest (started in 2019) would be able to counter this mentality. This is a sequential experiential course framework: Year 1 is focused on Humanities, Year 2 is focused on Natural and Social Sciences. By 2027 the students have to complete Quest 3 (experiential learning phase) and Quest 4 (Senior Capstone: optional) requirements. The committee is working on Quest 3 courses.

- Some of the challenges are related to increasing the value of general education courses. Data was shown from student response surveys (see Powerpoint). A mini retreat with faculty from all 16 Colleges will be organized to address these concerns regarding general education courses.
- Currently, an associate provost leads the general education program – Dr. Lindner advocated for direct faculty governance in this process, thus a faculty director will be helpful, with a physical space, more than a figurehead. Plus, physical space is needed for this program as is present in other national universities. Many universities have a separate general education office which is led by faculty.
- Dr. Phalin commented that often first-generation students do not always engage with faculty, may feel intimidated or realized they can interact with faculty. To encourage faculty-student interactions, social and soft skills aspects could be included as part of the education. Also, collaboration with government relations office could be helpful to ensure that importance is expressed to legislature. Talking with business groups such as chamber of commerce could be helpful in adding to the perspective that general education courses are needed for success.
- Dr. Wang commented that COVID impacted teacher-student interactions. No hard data is available but this has been anecdotally noted by Dr. Lindner. Continuing conversations regarding the values of in-person learning and remote learning is needed. Dr. Phalin expressed enthusiasm for remote participation especially for students who are care-givers or are working. Dr. Knackstedt also agreed that ZOOM options increase student engagement. This leads to equal access and addresses equity issues. Dr. Brophy agreed with this but also stressed the need for in-person interactions with students.

## **5. Identify next month's Committee/Council Invitation**

- View [APPENDIX](#) of Recommended Committee on Committee Review Rotation
- COC discussed considering inviting the University Information Technology Committee or the Compensation & Equity Committee along with the Welfare Council this semester.
- It was agreed that Academic Personnel Board (APB) should be invited in the Fall semester, due to their heavy workload in the Spring.
- It may work well to invite the Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations and Standards Committee (AFTPRS) later in the year as their mission is being examined to ensure it accommodates current and anticipated academic freedom-related grievances.

## **6. Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.