



University Faculty Senate

Appendix F

1/24/17

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES AND RULES

Establishment of the Standing Joint Committee for General Education Assessment

(Legislative)

Implementation: Upon approval by the Senate

BACKGROUND

On April 19, 2016 the University Faculty Senate approved a legislative report entitled "Recommendations for General Education Assessment," which was brought forward by the Special Joint Senate Committee on General Education Assessment. This report included three recommendations for the establishment of a new committee entitled "Standing Joint Committee on General Education Assessment." This committee will guide regular curricular review and the on-going assessment of student learning as it pertains to General Education.

Standing Joint Committee for General Education Assessment

SCOPE

The new standing joint committee should recommend the development of datasets to inform general education assessment. Such datasets should include, but not be limited to:

1. A General Education Curricular Inventory that shows patterns of course offerings, student enrollment, and student grades by major and location.

2. General Education curriculum mapping that shows the relationship between General Education and undergraduate majors.
3. General Education course objective mapping that shows the relationship to General Education learning objectives.
4. The new standing joint committee should collect and use data in an ongoing way to examine student outcomes, such as (1) student success (e.g., time-to-degree, graduation rate, and other institutional data) and (2) student learning (e.g., course work, engaged scholarship projects, and other factors that provide evidence of learning). The data should also be used to inform curricular improvement, including but not limited to: (1) decisions about the General Education curriculum, including questions about the efficacy of pathways to support integrative thinking; (2) effective assessment practices and processes, especially those that can be shared across disciplines; and (3) decisions about availability of General Education curricular components across the University, including gaps and trends. The goal should be to develop an analytic assessment plan, supported by data, that informs curricular improvement and evolves over time.

MEMBERSHIP

- i. Associate Vice Provost for Learning Outcomes Assessment; Co-Chair
- ii. Chair of the Curricular Affairs Committee; Co-Chair
- iii. An associate vice president and associate dean for Undergraduate Education, appointed by the Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education
- iv. Director and Assistant Dean of the Office for General Education
- v. A member of the Graduate Council, appointed by the Vice Provost for Graduate Education and the Dean of the Graduate School
- vi. An associate dean from Penn State Libraries, appointed by the Dean of Libraries and Scholarly Communications
- vii. A student government representative (either UPUA or CCSG), appointed by the Committee on Committees and Rules
- viii. Six University Faculty Senators, to represent Commonwealth Campuses and University Park Colleges, appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees and Rules. Faculty Senators will serve rotating three-year, renewable terms.

SELECTION

- i. The University Faculty Senate, the Office of Undergraduate Education and the Office of Planning and Assessment shall jointly appoint the committee.

DUTIES

- i. The committee shall work in cooperation with the University-wide assessment working group chaired by the Vice Provost for Planning and Assessment and any subsequently formed University-assessment coordinating body to ensure that assessment efforts are coordinated across General Education,

baccalaureate degree programs, and other assessments of academic areas (such as engaged scholarship, minors, certificate programs, etc.).

- ii. The committee shall develop data sets to be used for general education assessment, such as curricular inventories that show patterns of course offerings, student enrollment, and student grades by major and location; curriculum mapping that shows the relationship between General Education and undergraduate majors; and course objective mapping that shows the relationship to General Education learning objectives.
- iii. The committee shall collect and use data to examine student learning outcomes and to develop analytic assessment plan, which evolves over time and informs curricular improvement.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES AND RULES

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