

Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2020
Approved December 10, 2020

1. Call to Order

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

2. Roll Call

Present:

Barbour, Barrett, Boumenir, Branyon, Cheng, Corley, DeWeese, Elman, Erben, Faucette, Fuentes, Gault, Geyer, Gordon, Graffius, Green, Gupta, Hadley, Hansen, Hill, Hodges, Ivory, Jara-Pazmino (Stewart sub.), Kellison, Kimbrel, Kniess, Koczkas, Kramer (Hunt sub.), Lew Yan Voon, Ly, MacKinnon, Mbaye, McKendry-Smith, McLean, Nickell, Ogletree (Mosier sub.), Pashia, Pazzani, Rees, Richter, Self, Scullin, Snipes, Sterling, Swift (Morris sub.), Towhidi, Van Valen, Volkert, Wadlington, and Wofford.

Absent:

Banford and Hansen.

3. Minutes

The November 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved with 42 in favor and 1 abstention.

4. Committee Reports

Committee I: Undergraduate Programs Committee (Rosemary Kellison, Chair)

Action Items:

A) College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry

1) Department of Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology

a) [Anthropology, B.S.](#)

Request: Modify

Item approved with 34 in favor, 10 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

b) [Embedded Certificate in Health and Society](#)

Request: Add

Item approved with 37 in favor, 8 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

2) Department of English, Film, Language, and Performing Arts

a) [FORL 3000 Global Languages and Cultures Colloquium](#)

Request: Add

b) [Stand Alone Certificate in Global Languages and Cultures](#)

Request: Add

Items a and b were approved as a block with 47 in favor and 1 abstention.

B) College of Education

1) Department of Literacy and Special Education

a) [Special Education, B.S.Ed.](#)

Request: Modify

Item approved with 43 in favor and 2 abstentions.

C) Department of Mass Communications

1) [COMM 4457 Global Media](#)

Request: Add

Item approved with 35 in favor, 6 opposed, and 6 abstentions.

D) University College

1) [XIDS 1004 Oral and Technological Communication](#)

Request: Delete

2) [XIDS 2201 Science Foundations](#)

Request: Delete

Items 1 and 2 were approved as a block with 45 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Information Items:

A) College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry

1) Department of Art, History, and Philosophy

a) [Minor in History](#)

Request: Modify

This modification designates the Minor in History as “Fully Online Optional.”

Committee III: Academic Policies Committee (Emily McKendry-Smith, Chair)

Action Items: (Figure 1)

A) Spring 2021 Withdrawal Deadline Recommendation

Item approved with 43 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention.

5. Old Business

6. New Business

7. Announcements

A) 2021-2022 Academic Calendar, Jill Drake

The 2021 Academic Year will begin on August 18, 2021 and will have 15 weeks of instruction in the Fall and Spring semesters. Monday-only classes will be extended by ten minutes, while all other classes will remain the same. Exam schedules are forthcoming, as is more information about these changes. (See [December 4, 2020 recording](#), beginning 1:22:17)

B) Faculty180 Demonstration and Faculty Activities Report Deadlines, Cathi Jenks

UWG has adopted a new software platform called Faculty180 by Interfolio, which will replace the Excel spreadsheets for faculty activity reporting each year beginning with the 2020 Calendar Year Report. Dr. Jenks provided a demonstration of the platform demo and faculty in attendance gave brief testimonials regarding ease of use of the platform. (See [December 4, 2020 recording](#), beginning 1:26:48). For more information, please see the [Provost and VPAA website](#) for Faculty180 resources, guides, and training videos, as well as the [Interfolio Faculty 180 help page](#) and this [PDF walkthrough](#). The login link to Faculty180 can also be found on the [Provost and VPAA's website](#) or through the [OneLogin portal](#).

C) General Education Assessment Committee, Angela Insenga

- *Dr. Insenga, in her capacity as Director of General Education Assessment, gave an overview of the work that they have completed to date which is expanded upon [in this document](#). (See [December 4, 2020 recording](#), beginning 1:55:43). Since beginning their work at UWG, GEAC has created a number of working groups across campus that are comprised of faculty from the numerous disciplines represented in the Core Curriculum. As we move into Core redesign, GEAC hopes that their framework will bend and shift with redesign efforts. The goal is to continue communicating a staggered plan regarding assessment based on a 3:2:3 model which creates a cogent and systematic plan for assessing the Core:*
 - *three semesters of baseline collections*
 - *two semesters of analysis and planning, ending in the creation an improvement plan*

- *and three semesters of improvement implementations and closing the loop.*
- *UWG's General Education Assessment includes a complete and vetted framework of 26 rubrics in 6 Core Area Programs and 111 discipline-specific and Faculty-crafted assignments that must be in use in each Core course over the next three years, regardless of phase or stage in the new staggered plan. Both Area A.1 and Area A.2 have created their core area rubrics and implementation tools that will be in use for the next three years as we go through this cycle. They have had their initial baseline collection and will move to the analysis and improvement planning phase. Area E.1, E.2, and E.4 are in the baseline collection phase. Areas B.2, E.3, and C.1 are entering the baseline collection phase now, and assessors will score the artifacts in January 2021.*
- *Additionally, Dr. Insenga spoke about her goal of ensuring that faculty understand how to obtain their Core class's assignment, how to conduct Norming, how Scoring is handled, and protocols for Improvement Plans as they move through each detailed above. She then went on to thank faculty for their consistent and impressive work thus far, as well as their patience and willingness to upload and score artifacts.*

8. Administrator Reports

A) Welcome Provost Preston

Provost Preston introduced himself and shared his background and history as an educator, administrator, and member of the West Georgia community. He thanked everyone for their service to the Faculty Senate and the university, and he commended everyone on their work with General Education Assessment. After Dr. Preston stated that he was looking forward to getting to know us and working with us in the future, Chair Williams opened the floor for questions. From 3:22 pm to 3:39 pm, Dr. Preston responded to questions and comments from faculty about the reorganization of the colleges, transparency and shared governance, the future creation of new academic units, enrollment and budgetary matters, recruitment, and community engagement. (See [December 4, 2020 recording](#), beginning 2:17:08)

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Colleen Vasconcellos, Executive Secretary

Figure 1

Spring 2021 Withdrawal Date Recommendation Academic Policies Standing Committee

Faculty support the flexibility of an extended withdrawal deadline given the challenges of COVID-19, but the Academic Policies Committee has received feedback from faculty that having the withdrawal deadline at the end of the semester is too late. For the spring semester the APC recommends that the withdrawal deadline be earlier, such as after 60 to 75% of the semester has passed. The APC also recommends that the withdrawal deadline does not immediately precede the beginning of the final exams period. Finally, the APC recommends that the Spring 2021 withdrawal deadline be decided prior to the start of classes.