

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning

March 9, 2023

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom

Meeting synopsis:

1. Call to order
 2. Consent agenda
 - a. Minutes form Feb 9, 2023
 3. Chair updates
 4. Subcommittee updates
 5. Senate General Education committee project – co-chairs: Menaka Abraham; Chris Laws
 6. Good of the order
 7. Adjourn
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1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at

2. Consent agenda

a. Minutes from Feb 9, 2023

The chair asked for any discussion of the consent agenda. There was no discussion. The consent agenda was approved.

3. Chair updates

Nothing was stated.

4. Subcommittee updates

Peer evaluations: Has developed a survey design with mostly open-ended questions and some framing. They have discussed potential respondents including department coordinators, chairs, and peer review coordinators.

Accessibility: Has begun networking with other faculty and committees. The group plans to join a FCSA April meeting to share current progress. A guest asked the subcommittee to consider equity in academic freedom, accessibility, and the role of mandated structures for instructors in syllabi templates.

Tech: The subcommittee has developed a survey to gather information for UWIT and thoughts from FCTL teaching faculty on what members consider necessary information for students when registering. A member asked about how to share information on the FCTL work which impacts faculty, staff, and students. The council chair planned to collect statements from each subcommittee chair to include in the quarterly faculty council reports and/or other communication methods.

5. Senate General Education committee project – co-chairs: Menaka Abraham; Chris Laws

Menaka Abraham joined the council to discuss undergraduate general education governance (Exhibit 1) and review draft Class B legislation.

It was noted that the proposed University Committee on General Education (UCGE) would be authorized to approve new courses and revisions to current courses (pedagogy) and the University Committee on Curriculum Administration (UCCA) would review details on institutional documentation of courses and anything not covered by the UCGE.

Abraham asked members to provide feedback to the Class B legislation prior to the April SEC meeting.

6. Good of the Order

The Center for Teaching and Learning shared an upcoming symposium event and encouraged members to attend: <https://teaching.washington.edu/learn/teaching-and-learning-symposium/symposium-keynote/>

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Minutes by Alexandra Toyoda, faculty council analyst, xanport@uw.edu

Present: **Faculty Code Section 21-61 A:** Lynn Dietrich (chair), Rania Hussein, Kristin Gustafson, Louisa Mackenzie, Lauren Graham, Sunita Iyer, Mathew Gilboff, Ranjini Grove, Leighann Chaffee
Faculty Code Section 21-61 B: Laine Ritter, Deb Raftus,
President's designee: LeAnne Jones Wiles
Guests: Tina Miller, Sean Gehrke, Penelope Moon, Menaka Abraham, Jason Johnson

Absent: **Faculty Code Section 21-61 A:** Fred Bookstein, Casey Self, SoYoung Kang, Anne-Marie Gloster, Duong Than
Faculty Code Section 21-61 B: Adrien Chen

Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – GE Committee Overview

Senate Committee on Undergraduate General Education

<https://www.washington.edu/faculty/senate/committee-on-undergraduate-education/>

Last updated February 21, 2023

Background and Context

Regardless of major or campus, undergraduates must complete a minimum of 60 credits of General Education (GE) coursework: 40 credits across the Arts and Humanities and Natural and Social Sciences, 12 credits of Composition and Writing, 5 Reasoning credits, and 3 Diversity credits. With the exception of the latter, which was added just over a decade ago, these requirements have been in place since the early 1990s. Though the model has endured and is anticipated to continue to do so, it has several pain points broadly characterized as follows: (1) Save for brief mentions in the *Scholastic Regulations*, there is no University-level policy language to guide the development or review of courses intended to meet GE requirements, and (2) Though formal responsibility for curriculum of all kinds and at all levels clearly resides with the faculty, University-wide governance of GE is murky at best, which has posed persistent challenges for problem-solving, much less innovation.¹ Throughout AY20-21 and AY21-22, the Faculty Council on Academic Standards initiated a GE policy review, which culminated in minor modifications to the *Scholastic Regulations*² and led to the development of this ad hoc committee.

Objectives

The overarching objective of this initiative is to address known pain points with GE at the UW without changing the requirements themselves. Toward this end, two objectives follow:

1. To support school, college, and campus curriculum committees and coordinators by refining working definitions and descriptions of tri-campus GE requirements.
2. To advance faculty oversight and leadership of GE by sunseting the University Curriculum Committee and establishing new tri-campus governing structures explicitly linked to the Faculty Senate.

Process

The committee was charged on January 6, 2023, held its first meeting on February 1, will hold its second meeting on March 2, and will meet monthly through the end of the academic year. To address the challenges and objectives noted above, and mindful of the importance of maintaining the GE requirements themselves, work has commenced along two tracks as follows:

1. *Expanded definitions and descriptions.* Six teams of 2-3 from the committee membership have been formed to focus on each GE requirement: Arts & Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Writing, Reasoning, and Diversity. Each team is expanding its membership to 6-8 and is developing plans to engage larger circles of faculty in a tri-campus deliberative process with the aim of generating statements focused on each requirement's distinctiveness and its contributions to student learning.
2. *Class B legislation.* The co-chairs have worked with a small team to draft Class B legislation sunseting the University Curriculum Committee and establishing two governing bodies that would reside in the spaces between the Faculty Councils on Academic Standards, Teaching and Learning, and Tri-Campus Policy and report to the Senate Executive Committee. One committee would be focused on ongoing oversight of GE and the other committee would be advisory to the Office of the University Registrar in the fulfillment of its overall curriculum administration responsibilities.

¹ See the following memo, "Alternative Futures for Governance of the University General Education Program," for a detailed overview of the current state of GE curriculum, governance, and associated "pain points": <https://uw-s3-cdn.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/71/2023/01/18105252/Alternative-Futures-for-General-Education-Governance.pdf>

² <https://uw-s3-cdn.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/71/2022/05/03110332/207-Final.pdf>

Membership

Chairs: Menaka Abraham (Tacoma), Chris Laws (Seattle); *Faculty:* Megan Callow (Seattle), Shauna Carlisle (Bothell), Ann Huppert (Seattle), Louisa Mackenzie (Seattle), Julie Masura (Tacoma), Nicole McNichols (Seattle), Robin Minthorn (Tacoma), Stephanie Smallwood (Seattle), Rob Turner (Bothell); Megan Callow (Seattle) *Ex officio:* Bonnie Becker (Tacoma), Cinnamon Hillyard (Bothell), Jason Johnson (Provost's designee), Michaelann Jundt (Seattle), Tina Miller (Registrar's designee); *Students:* Cody Becker (Bothell), Timothy Billings (Seattle), TBD (Tacoma)