

Minutes Undergraduate Council (UGC) meeting 11.16.20
 Prepared by Debbie Zelizer

In attendance at Zoom meeting: Hanna Nekvasil, Norm Goodman, Brenda Anderson, Christine Pitocco, Deb Serling, Arlene Feldman, Kevin McDonnell, Jennifer Dellaposta, Debbie Zelizer, Diane Bello, Shellie Germana, Peter Gergen, Jackie Rowe

Invited guest: Kane Gillespie, Director of Academic Assessment

Agenda Items	Notes
Acceptance of the minutes	<p>Hanna called for a vote to accept the minutes from 10.19.20</p> <p>Minutes were accepted.</p>
Update on Committee Leadership	<p>The Exec Council replaced Roy Lacey as chair of the UGC with Hanna Nekvasil (formerly co-chair of the UG) and asked Hanna to remain Chair until end of S2021.</p> <p>Election for new chair will be held spring 2021, Hanna will mentor new chair fall 2022.</p>
Old Business: UGC response to SOMAS MOU with Pace.	<p>Hanna shared a draft version of the UGC response to SOMAS proposed MOU with Pace.</p> <p>Comments were solicited from the committee: More explicit language about curriculum mapping and Stop Out Program Completion Plan should be included in the response.</p> <p>Action Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanna and Zelizer will revise the draft response, Hanna will send the response again to committee members for comment. • Once approved by the committee, Hanna will send the document to the Exec Council with this statement: The UGC recommends that the Exec Council ensure the issues raised by the UGC are promptly and sufficiently addressed before a MOU is signed by the campus.
Old Business: Raising the credit limit during winter semester	<p>Shelley and Diane presented a brief summary of the plan: Allow students to take up to 8 credits during the 3-week winter semester. There is no specific policy in the Undergraduate Bulletin limiting the credits taken by SBU students on campus; however, there is a policy limiting the transfer of credits from outside SBU to SBU during winter to 4 credits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the credit load from 4 to 8 for the winter will allow students to make up larger credit deficits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For example, the NY Excelsior Scholarship requires students to earn no less than 30-credits each academic

year. Once a student falls below 30, they permanently lose the scholarship. This credit limit change would help this student population.

- Increasing the credit load from 4 to 8 for the winter would also generate tuition revenue.

Discussion/Questions/Comments:

- How realistic is it for students to take 8 credits? How long are students in class over those 3 weeks?
 - For a 3 credit course, 60 hours of class time are required, which does not include reading/studying/assignments, etc. Students are in class either mornings or afternoons TU-Friday. For a 4 credit lab course, students are in class all day, TU-Friday. This makes it unrealistic for students to take 2 courses with lab to get those 8 credits.
 - Perhaps a student can handle 6 credits of lower divisions course (i.e., SBC) over the winter. We are setting students up for failure if we approve 8 credits of 300 level or lab courses over the winter.
- Will there be a GPA or petition process?
 - Currently a petition process is in place to increase the credit load of winter courses above 4 credits. Petition requires a 2.5 or higher GPA.
 - If this were to be approved there would need to be a petition process that requires major advising and major advisor approval. GPA threshold of 2.5 or higher should be a condition as well.
- Perhaps the petition could be accessed through a google form.
- How would we handle students from outside SBU if they want to take winter courses here at SBU – we robustly market winter courses to outside students.
 - Could the petition process be waived for outside students if credit load is increased?
- There are not enough courses offered during the fall and spring – we must remember that TAP does not cover winter courses. We should not make students feel they must take winter courses.
 - There seems to be an inordinate number of course reserves for spring 2021.
 - One committee member shared: My department offers a 500-person class – now that we are remote instruction, I had to hire more TAs and lower enrollment to 400. I need those course reserves for my majors.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Another member shared: There are fewer 100-200 level courses being offered in the spring – perhaps that is why the course reserves seem to have increased. <p>UGC approved – SBU students would be required to petition to take credit load over 4 to a max of 8 credits, students need to meet with major advisor and get approval from advisor to take 5- 8 credits. There would be no petition process for students outside of SBU – the 8 credits would automatically be approved.</p>
<p>New Business: Revising the SBC Learning Objectives</p>	<p>Kane wanted to keep the committee apprised of the SBC review process, share assessment data from the faculty survey, and discuss proposed revisions to SBC Learning Outcomes effective winter/spring 2021.</p> <p>A survey was sent to faculty teaching SBC courses. The response rate was 47% with 495 qualitative comments. This was interpreted as strong faculty engagement in the assessment process since typical response rate on faculty surveys is 2-7%.</p> <p>Kane review the data and explained that the improvement recommendations fell into three categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Achieve consistent taxonomical levels relative to Bloom's taxonomy, 2. Consolidate verbs or verb anchors into one measurable verb where possible, 3. Split multi-verb outcomes into separate outcomes. <p>The proposed changes to the SBC LOs were minor and did not change the scope or nature of the course.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLO LO- the data might be skewed depending on how the faculty interpret the LO (world view or exploration of an individual society) • EXP+ LO- reflection is a critical element of experiential learning but for some types of experiences it is not feasible to have the student reflect before, during, and after the experience. • EXP+ LO – How does/can a faculty member assess deep reflection? • It appears that some SBC courses are underfunded (i.e., SPK, WRTD, ART, LANG, EXP+). • Kane requested that our committee review the proposed revisions versus debating concepts.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Strategic Budget Initiative findings might yield broad changes to the SBCs.○ SUNY review of substantive changes to the general education curriculum is a multi-year process.
UGC Meeting Schedule	<p>Hanna discussed our meeting schedule:</p> <p>Our meeting schedule is in disarray - University Senate and Arts and Sciences Senate meetings are scheduled now on back-to back Mondays, leaving the UGC to either have one meeting a month, meetings on back-to-back Mondays for two meetings a month, or one regularly scheduled meeting and impromptu meetings when required. She proposed for the remainder of the semester, to schedule one formal meeting per month, via ZOOM, and if a need arises we schedule other meetings, as was done for our meeting with the Interim Provost.</p>