

**University Faculty Senate**  
**Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policies Committee**  
**Wendy Gordon**  
**AY 2019-20 Final Report**  
**June 3, 2020**

**Committee Charge**

*The Committee will provide advice and guidance to the Faculty Senate on matters relating to undergraduate programs and policies throughout the University. To these ends, the Committee may review such areas as existing and proposed curricula, standards for academic degrees, undergraduate academic assessment, teaching techniques and evaluation, special undergraduate programs, articulation among units of State University of New York and the various aspects of international education and development.*

**Committee Members 2019-20**

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**Summary of Committee Actions in AY 2019-20**

- Completed ““Building Individualized Course Outcome Models to Enhance Student Success: a Primer.”
- Developed system with Registrars’ Group to notify cross-registered students about withdrawal dates and policies.
- Began work on clarifying the program proposal process for campuses
  - a. Considered a system in which a faculty member would be trained on each campus as a resource for program proposals (administrators having too short of a professional lifespan and being concerned with different proposal elements than faculty).

- b. Recognized a disconnect between SED and Faculty regarding what a “syllabus” is and what content is necessary.
  - c. Plan to produce guidance for Chairs/Faculty on what is expected by SED in a course syllabus and what should be included in Program proposals. Specifically,
    - i. Clarify what a syllabus is and how it differs from a Master Course Outline.
    - ii. Enumerate and explain the information required in a syllabus by SED
    - iii. Clarify best practices for proposals that include classes with multiple versions/instructors
    - iv. Perhaps design a model template that will provide necessary information without interfering with academic freedom.
- Discussion of aid to faculty regarding significant curriculum revision became a decision to focus on curriculum mapping. That’s as far as we got other than collecting a few documents.
  - a. There is a Curriculum Mapping presentation on SUNY Blue:
    - i. <https://blue.suny.edu/departments/AcademicAffairs/ProgramReview/Shared%20Documents/CPR%20Meeting%20-%202018-11-20%20-%20Outcome%20Mapping/CPR%20Curriculum%20Mapping%202018.pptx>
    - ii. Concern is to communicate the information to faculty/chairs when they need it, especially as faculty move into leadership positions and are not given explicit training in the process.
    - iii. Next step: distill the presentation and other available resources into a simple document that can be distributed and archived for faculty use when needed.
- Examined and discussed “Free Freshman Year” announced in Governor’s State of the State Address, January 17, 2020. Supplemental report submitted.
  - a. Committee continues to be concerned about the motive and educational value of Modern State program.
  - b. The Committee has two lines of thought about the Free Freshman year.
    - i. As explained in the Supplemental report, there is not much new being offered here. No policy changes are necessary to enact it, and it does not seem that it will change any practice around the students (primarily veterans) who will take part.
    - ii. The Modern States program is suspect. By providing access to MOOCs it does not provide a good educational experience for students, and encouraging students to utilize this program deprives SUNY of students it needs and can serve better. Endorsing this program is tantamount to declaring classroom-based general education courses to be unnecessary.

#### **Plans for 2020-21**

In-person work session when travel is possible to work on

- iii. Curriculum Mapping Document
- iv. Program Proposal/Syllabus Document
- v. Program Proposal Campus Expert Resolution and Training Session
- vi. Discussion of “Free Freshman Year” and Prior Learning Assessments more generally

